

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 681

By: Senator G. Leding
By: Representatives Brooks, Ennett, McCollum, Pilkington

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE CLEAN ELECTRICITY JOBS TASK
FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE CLEAN ELECTRICITY JOBS TASK
FORCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) Job creation is a priority for the state;
- (2) The manufacturing, installation, and operation of clean electricity systems is a growth industry and should be encouraged;
- (3) The composition and structure of the electricity generation system of our nations is transitioning to a system with zero (0) emissions;
- (4) Many electric utility companies have voluntarily announced goals for zero-emission portfolios;
- (5) Many major businesses desire to reduce their carbon footprint to meet market-driven sustainability goals and may use access to clean electricity as a determining factor for business location;
- (6) Planning for the creation of clean electricity jobs requires input from all stakeholders;
- (7) To ensure Arkansas can fully capitalize on the many employment opportunities in this growing industry, the creation of a clean electricity jobs task force can add significant value to the state's economic



development efforts; and

(8) By promoting the adoption of clean electricity by Arkansas businesses and expanding on clean electricity technical training options with educational institutions, the state can continue to grow its economy while taking advantage of some of the most innovative initiatives in the nation.

SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Clean Electricity Jobs Task Force – Creation – Duties.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Carbon dioxide equivalent" means a metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of the global warming potential of the greenhouse gases by converting the amount of other greenhouse gases to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide with the same global warming potential;

(2) "Carbon intensity" means the amount of global warming potential of greenhouse gases emitted to produce a given amount of electrical power, measured on an annual basis and expressed in grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour;

(3) "Direct emissions" means the carbon intensity of emissions from operation and maintenance of an energy source;

(4) "Greenhouse gas" means carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and any other gas identified by the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission as a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere;

(5)(A) "Indirect emissions" means the carbon intensity of the full energy chain for an energy resource, exclusive of the direct emissions.

(B) "Indirect emissions" includes without limitation the:

(i) Mining, processing, and transportation of materials for energy resource equipment;

(ii) Manufacturing, transportation, and installation of energy resource equipment;

(iii) Decommissioning or disposal of energy resource equipment; and

(iv) Mining, processing, and transportation of combustion fuel;

(6) "Life cycle emissions" means the sum of direct emissions and

indirect emissions for a given energy resource, expressed in carbon intensity per unit of energy generated; and

(7) "Net-zero emissions" means electricity production that achieves a nominal value of zero grams (0g) carbon intensity life cycle emissions, measured on an annual basis.

(b) There is created the Clean Electricity Jobs Task Force.

(c)(1) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(A) One (1) cochair appointed from the membership of the Senate by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(B) One (1) cochair appointed from the membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) One (1) co-vice chair appointed from the membership of the Senate by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(D) One (1) co-vice chair appointed from the membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(E) The Chair of the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission or his or her designee;

(F) The Chair of the Arkansas Public Service Commission or his or her designee;

(G) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce or his or her designee; and

(H) The following members appointed by the cochairs of the task force:

(i) One (1) representative of an investor-owned electric utility in the state;

(ii) One (1) representative of a member-owned electric cooperative in the state;

(iii) One (1) representative of the Arkansas Municipal Power Association;

(iv) Two (2) representatives from industry and business in the state;

(v) Four (4) representatives from conservation or environmental organizations in the state;

(vi) Two (2) representatives from health-related nongovernmental organizations in the state;

(vii) Two (2) representatives from academia in the

state;

(viii) One (1) representative from each congressional district in the state;

(ix) One (1) representative of the current workforce in the state;

(x) One (1) representative of a ratepayer organization in the state;

(xi) One (1) mayor of a city in each congressional district in the state or his or her designee; and

(xii) One (1) county judge of a county in each congressional district in the state or his or her designee.

(2) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

(3)(A) The legislative members of the task force attending in person shall be paid per diem and mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.

(B) The nonlegislative members of the task force may receive a per diem allowance of up to sixty dollars (\$60.00) when in attendance at regular or special meetings of the task force.

(d)(1) The cochairs of the task force shall call the first meeting of the task force within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act.

(2)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings using a digital access platform.

(B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one (1) time every month but may occur more often at the call of the cochairs.

(3) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for conducting its business.

(4)(A)(i) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.

(ii) Members attending a meeting virtually shall count for purposes of establishing a quorum.

(B) An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present, in person or virtually, shall be required for the passage of a motion or other task force action.

(5) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for

the task force.

(e)(1) The purpose of the task force is to study and propose:

(A) How to best prepare Arkansas to take full advantage of the transitioning electric power sector with respect to job creation and economic development; and

(B) The best pathways for Arkansas to quickly achieve, in a cost-effective manner, an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by 2050, taking into consideration the need to:

(i) Identify industry training gaps within the state for relevant sectors, including solar, nuclear, geothermal, wind, and other sectors related to the clean electricity industry;

(ii) Assess existing collegiate, technical, apprenticeship, and career and technical education courses and training opportunities currently available inside and outside of the state, identifying best practices that can be replicated by both the private sector and educational institutions;

(iii) Work with the Division of Workforce Services to explore the use of funds received under the Workforce Innovation and Development Act, 29 U.S.C. § 3103 et seq., to develop pathways to prosperity for residents with barriers to employment through clean electricity jobs;

(iv) Assess market demand for clean electricity for:

- (a) Residential customers;
- (b) Commercial customers;
- (c) Industrial customers; and
- (d) Businesses wishing to relocate for access to clean energy;

(v) Achieve an electric power sector with net-zero emissions:

- (a) At a reasonable cost to ratepayers;
- (b) With the lowest cumulative cost to achieve the emissions target;
- (c) With reasonably rapid attainment of the emissions target; and
- (d) While maintaining high electric system reliability and resilience;

(vi) Assure equity for all customers and reduce the

energy burden for low-income, underserved, and vulnerable communities;

(vii) Determine the appropriate pathways and programs for investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and member-owned utilities in achieving an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by 2050;

(viii) Prioritize approaches that are more applicable to decarbonization and electrification of other energy sectors, including without limitation industrial processes, transportation, and building heating;

(ix) Identify currently available technologies and technology gaps relevant to achieving an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by 2050;

(x) Continuously review all emerging technologies and changing economics relevant to achieving an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by 2050;

(xi) Identify the roles of various programs and approaches in achieving an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by 2050, including without limitation energy efficiency, conservation, distributed generation, demand response, energy storage, and project financing for power sector infrastructure;

(xii) Identify and minimize impacts on vulnerable and underserved communities in seeking to achieve an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by 2050;

(xiii) Prioritize environmental and economic considerations relevant to achieving an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by 2050; and

(xiv) Minimize new capacity additions with significant emissions that would likely become costly stranded assets.

(2) To achieve this purpose, the task force shall:

(A) Evaluate, study, and address the issues identified in subdivision (e)(1) of this section; and

(B) Recommend specific solutions and legislation necessary to provide pathways for Arkansas to maximize clean electricity jobs and economic development and to achieve an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by 2050.

(f) On or before October 1, 2022, the task force shall file with the

Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a final written report of its activities, findings, and recommendations, including recommendations for proposed legislation.

(g) If the task force determines it is necessary, the task force may contract with one (1) or more facilitators to assist the task force with the study and report required under this section.

(h) The task force expires on October 31, 2022.