

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1073

By: Representative Ennett

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ADVANCED ENERGY JOBS TASK FORCE;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ADVANCED ENERGY 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 advanced energy systems is a growth industry and should be encouraged;
- (3) The composition and structure of the nation's energy system is transitioning to a system with near zero (0) emissions to be more:
 - (A) Engaging with customers; and
 - (B) Resilient in adapting to weather-induced electrical grid impacts;
- (4) Many electric utility companies have voluntarily announced goals to transition to advanced energy systems;
- (5) Many major businesses desire to reduce their carbon footprint to meet market-driven sustainability goals and may use access to advanced energy systems as a determining factor for business location;
- (6) Planning for the creation of advanced energy 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 an advanced energy jobs task force can add significant value to the state's economic development efforts; and

(8) By promoting the adoption of advanced electricity systems by Arkansas businesses and expanding on advanced energy 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. Advanced Energy Jobs Task Force – Creation – Duties – Definitions.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Advanced electricity resource" means any fuel, technology, or policy that generates electricity or facilitates the production of electricity with improved efficiency, reduced environmental impact, and advanced capabilities;

(2) "Advanced electricity system" means the entirety of an electrical grid system, including without limitation:

(A) A diverse portfolio of advanced electricity resources, both centralized and distributed generation;

(B) An annual electric grid carbon intensity of fifty grams carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour (50g CO₂e/kWh) or less;

(C) A transmission and distribution network;

(D) Energy storage facilities;

(E) Demand response capabilities, including without limitation:

(i) Smart metering;

(ii) Information infrastructure;

(iii) Implementation policies; and

(iv) Utility and customer communications;

(F) Policies and programs that support energy efficiency and conservation measures; and

(G) Market structures that properly incentivize:

(i) Deployment of advanced electricity resources;

(ii) Reasonably rapid deployment of an optimal mix of advanced electricity resources that provides near zero (0) emissions

electricity at low overall electricity system cost;

(iii) Reliable and resilient electricity system performance; and

(iv) Reasonable, stable, nonvolatile energy pricing for ratepayers;

(3) "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 (g CO₂e/kWh);

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

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

(6)(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 transporting of materials for energy resource equipment;

(ii) Manufacturing, transporting, and installing of energy resource equipment;

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

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

(7) "Near zero (0) emissions" means electricity production that achieves a nominal value of zero grams carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour (0g CO₂e/kWh) to fifty grams carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour (50g CO₂e/kWh), measured on an annual basis.

(b) There is created the Advanced Energy Jobs Task Force.

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

(A) One (1) Senate chair, who shall be appointed from the membership of the Senate by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(B) One (1) House chair, who shall be appointed from the membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of

Representatives or his or her designee;

(C) One (1) Senate cochair, who shall be appointed from the membership of the Senate by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(D) One (1) House cochair, who shall be appointed from the membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or his or her designee;

(E) The Chair of the Senate Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs or his or her designee;

(F) The Chair of the House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs or his or her designee;

(G) One (1) member of the minority party of the General Assembly, who shall be appointed from the membership of the Senate by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(H) One (1) member of the minority party of the General Assembly, who shall be appointed from the membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(I) One (1) member of the majority party of the General Assembly, who shall be appointed from the membership of the Senate by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(J) One (1) member of the majority party of the General Assembly, who shall be appointed from the membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(K) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission or his or her designee;

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

(M) The Secretary of the Department of Energy and Environment or his or her designee; and

(N) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Advanced Energy Association 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 sixty (60) to ninety (90) days of the effective date of this act.

(2)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings using a digital access platform, including without limitation online or virtual meetings held through Zoom.

(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 of the task force.

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

(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 of the task force 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 task force shall study and propose:

(A) How to best prepare Arkansas to take full advantage of the transition to advanced electricity systems with respect to job creation and economic development; and

(B) The best pathways to:

(i) Identify industry training gaps within the state for relevant advanced electricity resources, including solar, nuclear, fossil fuels with carbon capture, use and sequestration, wind, geothermal, hydropower, transmission and distributions systems, information systems, instrumentation systems, and others;

(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;

(iii) Work with the Division of Workforce Services to explore the use of funds received under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq., to develop pathways to prosperity for residents with barriers to employment through advanced energy jobs;

(iv) Identify emerging best practices regarding workforce development and associated coordination of resources to prepare for the advanced energy economy;

(v) Identify the magnitude and timetable associated with new business development associated with an advanced energy economy;

(vi) Determine the appropriate ways and programs for investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and member-owned utilities in achieving an advanced energy system;

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

(viii) Identify currently available technologies and technology gaps relevant to achieving an advanced energy system;

(ix) Consider all emerging technologies relevant to achieving an advanced energy system;

(x) Identify the roles of various programs and approaches in achieving an advanced energy system, including without limitation energy efficiency, conservation, centralized and distributed generation, demand response, energy storage, and project financing for power sector infrastructure;

(xi) Identify and minimize impacts on vulnerable and underserved communities in seeking to achieve an advanced energy system;

(xii) Prioritize environmental and economic considerations relevant to achieving an advanced energy system; and

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

(2) To achieve the purpose under subdivision (e)(1) of this section, 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 advanced energy jobs and economic development and to achieve a statewide advanced energy system.

(f) On or before December 31, 2026, 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 December 31, 2026.