

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 681

5 By: Senator G. Leding
6 By: Representatives Brooks, Ennett, McCollum, Pilkington
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CLEAN ELECTRICITY JOBS TASK
10 FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE CLEAN ELECTRICITY JOBS TASK
15 FORCE.
16
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

21 The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) Job creation is a priority for the state;

23 (2) The manufacturing, installation, and operation of clean
24 electricity systems is a growth industry and should be encouraged;

25 (3) The composition and structure of the electricity generation
26 system of our nations is transitioning to a system with zero (0) emissions;

27 (4) Many electric utility companies have voluntarily announced
28 goals for zero-emission portfolios;

29 (5) Many major businesses desire to reduce their carbon
30 footprint to meet market-driven sustainability goals and may use access to
31 clean electricity as a determining factor for business location;

32 (6) Planning for the creation of clean electricity jobs requires
33 input from all stakeholders;

34 (7) To ensure Arkansas can fully capitalize on the many
35 employment opportunities in this growing industry, the creation of a clean
36 electricity jobs task force can add significant value to the state's economic



1 development efforts; and

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

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

9 (a) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 state;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 the task force.

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

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

6 (B) The best pathways for Arkansas to quickly achieve, in
7 a cost-effective manner, an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by
8 2050, taking into consideration the need to:

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

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

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

21 (iv) Assess market demand for clean electricity for:

22 (a) Residential customers;

23 (b) Commercial customers;

24 (c) Industrial customers; and

25 (d) Businesses wishing to relocate for access
26 to clean energy;

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

29 (a) At a reasonable cost to ratepayers;

30 (b) With the lowest cumulative cost to achieve
31 the emissions target;

32 (c) With reasonably rapid attainment of the
33 emissions target; and

34 (d) While maintaining high electric system
35 reliability and resilience;

36 (vi) Assure equity for all customers and reduce the

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

2 (vii) Determine the appropriate pathways and
3 programs for investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and member-owned
4 utilities in achieving an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by
5 2050;

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

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

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

16 (xi) Identify the roles of various programs and
17 approaches in achieving an electric power sector with net-zero emissions by
18 2050, including without limitation energy efficiency, conservation,
19 distributed generation, demand response, energy storage, and project
20 financing for power sector infrastructure;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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