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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2030 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, DEAN, O'BRIEN, McNEILL, COHEN,  
VITALI, BRIGGS AND NEILSON, MARCH 15, 2016

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
MARCH 15, 2016

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 2008 (P.L.935, No.70), entitled "An  
2 act providing for a report on potential climate change  
3 impacts and economic opportunities for this Commonwealth, for  
4 duties of the Department of Environmental Protection, for an  
5 inventory of greenhouse gases, for establishment of the  
6 Climate Change Advisory Committee, for a voluntary registry  
7 of greenhouse gas emissions and for a climate change action  
8 plan," further providing for climate change action plan.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 7 of the act of July 9, 2008 (P.L.935,  
12 No.70), known as the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act, is amended  
13 to read:

14 Section 7. Climate change action plan.

15 (a) Action plan required.--Within 15 months from the  
16 effective date of this act and every three years thereafter, the  
17 department shall, in consultation with the committee, submit to  
18 the Governor a climate change action plan that, when combined  
19 with existing efforts in this Commonwealth to reduce GHG  
20 emissions, will cumulatively result in a total GHG emissions

1 reduction of 50% lower than 2005 levels no later than December  
2 31, 2030, and that:

3 (1) Identifies GHG emission and sequestration trends and  
4 baselines in this Commonwealth.

5 (2) Evaluates cost-effective strategies for reducing or  
6 offsetting GHG emissions from various sectors in this  
7 Commonwealth.

8 (3) Identifies costs, benefits and cobenefits of GHG  
9 reduction strategies recommended by the climate change action  
10 plan, including the impact on the capability of meeting  
11 future energy demand within this Commonwealth.

12 (4) Identifies areas of agreement and disagreement among  
13 committee members about the climate change action plan.

14 (5) Recommends to the General Assembly legislative  
15 changes necessary to implement the climate change action  
16 plan.

17 (6) Provides a schedule of economically feasible  
18 benchmarks for GHG emissions reduction goals corresponding  
19 with subsequent climate change action plan updates.

20 (7) Recommends to the Governor any administrative  
21 changes necessary to increase collaboration between the  
22 department and other State agencies for the implementation of  
23 certain GHG emissions reduction strategies.

24 (8) Identifies actions that the department may execute  
25 without legislative changes by the General Assembly that will  
26 allow the department to meet GHG emissions reduction goals.

27 (9) Identifies incentives that the department may  
28 utilize without legislative changes by the General Assembly  
29 to promote voluntary GHG emissions reduction from other  
30 entities.

1           (10) Identifies the effectiveness of previously  
2           implemented strategies and reevaluates previously rejected  
3           strategies to determine feasibility in ensuring the  
4           department meets the benchmarks established to meet GHG  
5           emissions reduction goals.

6           (b) Publication.--The climate change action plan shall be  
7 published and distributed to the General Assembly and made  
8 available to the public in printed form and on the department's  
9 Internet website upon submission of the plan to the Governor.

10          (c) Implementation.--To the extent feasible, the department,  
11 in conjunction with other State agencies if necessary, shall  
12 implement the measures in the climate change action plan in  
13 order to meet the GHG emissions reduction goals in the climate  
14 change action plan.

15          Section 2. This act shall not apply to a climate change  
16 action plan submitted under section 7(a) before the effective  
17 date of this act.

18          Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.