

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2021-125

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

**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 681

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

7 Filed with: Arkansas Legislative Council  
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

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

**Subtitle**

11 TO CREATE THE CLEAN ELECTRICITY JOBS TASK  
12 FORCE.

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

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22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

23 The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7           (a) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29                   (6) "Life cycle emissions" means the sum of direct emissions and indirect emissions for a  
30 given energy resource, expressed in carbon intensity per unit of energy generated; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24                   (vii) Two (2) representatives from academia in the state;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16                   (5) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the task force.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31                   (a) Residential customers;

32                   (b) Commercial customers;

33                   (c) Industrial customers; and

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

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

36                   (a) At a reasonable cost to ratepayers;

1 (b) With the lowest cumulative cost to achieve the emissions  
2 target;

3 (c) With reasonably rapid attainment of the emissions target;  
4 and

5 (d) While maintaining high electric system reliability and  
6 resilience;

7 (vi) Assure equity for all customers and reduce the energy burden for  
8 low-income, underserved, and vulnerable communities;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (xiv) Minimize new capacity additions with significant emissions that  
28 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 subdivision (e)(1) of this  
31 section; and

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

1           (f) On or before October 1, 2022, the task force shall file with the Governor, the President Pro  
2 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a final written report of its  
3 activities, findings, and recommendations, including recommendations for proposed legislation.

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

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

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9 Referred by Senator G. Leding

10 Prepared by: JLL/JLL

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