SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1752 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 1685

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marc R. Pacheco

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act to create a Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Marc R. Pacheco	
	☐ *[District]*
	☐

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SENATE . . . . . No. 1685

By Mr. Pacheco, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1685) of Marc R. Pacheco for legislation to create a Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to create a Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for the utilization of 100% renewable, alternative and nuclear energy in the commonwealth in order to demonstrate global leadership and to avoid global climatic disruption, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience., therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 21N of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 9 the following section 10:

Section 10. Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force

(a) Within two weeks of the bill's passage, the Governor, in consultation with the Secretary, shall appoint and immediately assemble a RePower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force "Task Force" comprised of 14 members to assist in implementing this chapter. The Task Force shall consist of the Secretary or a designee, who shall be the chair of the Task Force; Chairman of Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change or a designee, Chairman of the House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change or a designee, the commissioner of energy resources or a designee, the commissioner of environmental protection or a designee, the commissioner of the department of public utilities or a designee, and 1 representative from each of following communities: the religious community, the student climate advocacy community, the environmental justice community, renewable energy and energy efficiency businesses, electric utilities, academic institutions, climate advocacy organizations, and the businesses community.

16 (b) Within six months of its convening, the Task Force shall develop a plan and make
17 recommendations to the Secretary and the legislature for meeting the target of 100% emission
18 reductions by January 1, 2020, which shall include interim and longer-term actions necessary for
19 implementation.

20 (c) The Task Force shall file a report with its finding, including any legislative and
21 regulatory recommendations, with the Governor, the Secretary, clerks of the senate and house of
22 representatives, the joint committee on telecommunications, utility, and energy, and the senate
23 and house committees on ways and means not later than six months and two weeks after the
24 effective date of this act.

25 (d) The Task Force shall specifically consider, but not be limited to, evaluating the
26 following actions:

27 (1) amendments to the commonwealth's participation in the Regional Greenhouse
28 Gas Initiative

29 (2) amendments to the commonwealth's renewable energy portfolio standard to
30 conform to the goals of this Act,

31 (3) options for phasing out by January 1, 2020, the use of alternative renewable
32 energy sources that have positive net greenhouse gas emissions during their operating cycles.

33 (4) amendments to reinstate authority to the executive that was removed during
34 utility deregulation.

35 (e) When respectively making recommendations, the Task Force shall consider, but not
36 be limited to, the following:

37 (1) That the goal of 100% emissions reductions in the electricity sector should be
38 primarily achieved by (a) reducing electricity demand through efficiency and appropriate
39 economic incentives, and (b) by building new renewable energy generation.

40 (2) That coal is the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel, and interim
41 recommendations towards zero emissions in the electricity sector should prioritize reducing
42 electricity consumption from coal before other fossil fuels, with a goal of a complete phase-out
43 of coal-powered electricity by January 1st, 2015.

44 (3) That due consideration should be given to low-income communities and
45 individuals to make sure that they are not forced to endure disproportionate hardship during the
46 transition to a clean energy economy.

47 (4) That due consideration should be given to the needs of the industrial sector to
48 make sure that they are not encouraged to move their industrial processes out of state without
49 resulting in actual emissions reductions.

50 (5) That carbon emissions reductions are most valuable in the short-term, and that
51 any energy source using fuel that claims to be carbon-neutral over a span of years or decades
52 should be not be considered a net zero carbon emissions source of electricity, unless it is deemed
53 to be sustainable and carbon neutral by an independent panel of scientists.

54 (f) The Task Force shall engage in studies of the following areas, and the Secretary shall
55 appoint and assemble subcommittees as needed to specifically evaluate each of the following:

56 (1) Siting Reform

57 (2) Challenge of intermittency & smart grid, battery storage, and other solutions

58 (3) Accurate Carbon Pricing

59 (4) Investments in retrofits and energy efficiency

60 (5) The needs of low-income communities and communities of color

61 (6) The health, job creation, and other benefits of eliminating carbon emissions
62 from electricity generation

63 (7) The opportunity to eliminate further emissions from the transportation sector
64 through electric vehicles, and through the heating sector through electric heating.

65 (g) The subcommittees shall be composed of agency staff and representatives the same
66 communities represented on the Task Force, as well as other relevant communities the Task
67 Force votes to include at its first or later meetings.

68 (h) The Task Force shall not meet any less than once every two weeks, and staff from the
69 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental
70 Protection, the Department of Public Utilities, and the Department of Energy Resources shall
71 assist the Task Force in their studies as required for their successful completion.

72 (i) Upon the completion of the Task Force's recommendations, the Secretary shall
73 appoint a Repower Massachusetts Advisory Council "Advisory Council" that shall consist of 14
74 representatives of the same agencies and communities as the Task Force to periodically review
75 implementation of recommendations and advise the Governor, the Secretary, clerks of the senate
76 and house of representatives, the joint committee on telecommunications, utility, and energy, and
77 the senate and house committees on ways and means with annual reports on adjustments
78 necessary for meeting the target of 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with
79 the electric sector by January 1, 2020.

80 (j) If the goal of 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the electric
81 sector is not achieved by January 1st, 2020, the Advisory Council will continue its work,
82 including but not limited to its annual reports, until such date that the goal is achieved.