

SENATE No. 1607

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to create a Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Marc R. Pacheco

First Plymouth and Bristol

Bruce E. Tarr

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1607

By Mr. Pacheco, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1607) of Marc R. Pacheco and Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to create a Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1685 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to create a Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force.

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

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

3 Section 10. Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force

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

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

31 (3) options for phasing out by January 1, 2020, the use of alternative renewable energy
32 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 utility
34 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 recommendations
41 towards zero emissions in the electricity sector should prioritize reducing electricity consumption
42 from coal before other fossil fuels, with a goal of a complete phase-out of coal-powered
43 electricity by January 1st, 2015.

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

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

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

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

(1) Siting Reform

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

(3) Accurate Carbon Pricing

(4) Investments in retrofits and energy efficiency

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

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

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

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

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

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

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