

HOUSE No. 4796

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 18, 2022.

The committee on Labor and Workforce Development to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1197) of Paul R. Feeney, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Walter F. Timilty and Maria Duaine Robinson for legislation relative to a just transition to clean energy, the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1198) of Paul R. Feeney, Jack Patrick Lewis, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Walter F. Timilty and others for legislation relative to clean energy workforce standards and accountability, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1954) of Marjorie C. Decker and others for legislation to establish a just transition to clean energy office within the Department of Career Services of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1955) of Marjorie C. Decker, Paul W. Mark and others relative to clean energy workforce standards and accountability, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4796) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JOSH S. CUTLER.

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to a just transition to clean energy.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any special or general laws to the contrary, there shall
2 be a special commission to ensure that workers employed in the energy sector who are displaced
3 due to efforts by the commonwealth or the private sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or
4 transition from fossil fuels to clean energy have immediate access to employment and training
5 opportunities in clean energy industries and related fields. The Just Transition Commission shall
6 also study how the Commonwealth and clean energy businesses can ensure they act as
7 responsible employers to further the Commonwealth’s workforce and economic development
8 goals. The Just Transition Commission shall also study how to increase access to employment
9 and training opportunities in clean energy industries and related fields for residents of
10 environmental justice communities.

11 (b) For purposes of this commission, the following words and phrases shall have the
12 following definitions, unless context clearly requires otherwise:

13 “environmental justice population”, shall have the same meaning as defined in section 62
14 of chapter 30.

15 (c) The commission shall consist of 17 members: (1) the secretary of labor and workforce
16 development, or designee; (2) the commissioner of the department of energy resources, or
17 designee; (3) the director of the office of clean energy equity in the executive office of energy
18 and environmental affairs; (4) a representative of employers in the gas utility sector appointed by
19 the governor; (5) a representative of employers in the electric power generation sector appointed
20 by the Speaker of the House; (6) a representative of employers in the renewable electricity sector
21 appointed by the Senate President; (7) a representative of employers in the energy efficiency
22 sector appointed by the governor; (8) a representative of employers in the clean transportation
23 sector appointed by the Speaker of the House; (9) a representative of employers in the clean
24 heating sector appointed by the Senate President; (10) a representative of employees in the gas
25 utility sector appointed by the president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO; (11) a representative of
26 employees in the electric power generation sector appointed by the Massachusetts Building
27 Trades Council; (12) two representatives of employees in the clean energy sector appointed by
28 the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center; (13) a representative of employees in the transportation
29 sector appointed by Massachusetts department of transportation; and (14) three representatives of
30 environmental justice communities appointed by the director of the office of clean energy equity.

31 (d) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the appointing authority may fill such
32 vacancy. All members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

33 (e) The commission shall be tasked with conducting a study needed to develop a just
34 transition plan for the energy sector. The study shall include details on:

35 (i) Workers currently employed in the fossil fuel sectors by industry, trade, job
36 classification, and region. This information shall include relevant details including, but not
37 limited to, current wage and benefit packages and current licensing, certification, and training
38 requirements.

39 (ii) The number of jobs clean energy jobs created in the Commonwealth, by industry,
40 trade, job classification, and region.

41 (iii) Projected inventory of jobs needed and skills and training required to meet future
42 demand for jobs in the clean energy sector.

43 (iv) Strategies for targeting workforce development, re-employment opportunities, and
44 work supports for dislocated workers displaced from energy sector jobs as a result of the
45 transition to clean energy.

46 (v) Recommended actions to increase job opportunities in clean energy industries and
47 provide support services for residents of environmental justice communities.

48 (f) The commission shall report to the department of energy resources, the executive
49 office of labor and workforce development, and the clerks of the house of representatives and the
50 senate by no later than January 1, 2024 on the findings of the study required under subsection
51 (e).

52 SECTION 2. Chapter 23J of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby amended by
53 inserting after Section 12 the following new section:-

54 Section 13: Clean Energy Workforce Development Plan

55 The Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center (“Center”) shall develop and
56 implement successive 5-year workforce development plans for the Commonwealth, beginning in
57 FY2024, that includes outreach and recruitment into the Clean Energy Industry for existing
58 workers in fossil fuel intensive industries, as well as environmental justice populations and
59 individuals living in municipalities at high risk for climate change within the Commonwealth.

60 The Center’s workforce development plans shall include:

61 (1) Development of technical assistance, grants, loans, and demonstration projects,
62 facilitating the creation of construction, operations, and maintenance jobs in the Clean Energy
63 Industry.

64 (2) Measures to expand training capacity for the Clean Energy industry, building upon
65 the Commonwealth’s extensive existing public and private workforce development facilities,
66 including all state and federally certified apprenticeship programs, licensure, and degree
67 programs.

68 (3) Specific goals for the utilization of the residual workforce in fossil fuel intensive
69 industries, as well as environmental justice populations and individuals living in municipalities at
70 high risk for climate change within the Commonwealth.

71 (4) Recommendations, programs and technical assistance for the Clean Energy Industry
72 to ensure that the industry develops and maintains excellent working terms and conditions for all
73 workers employed therein.

74 (5) Requirements for minimum working conditions on Clean Energy projects owned,
75 leased, or financed by the Center through the Renewable Energy Trust Fund, or otherwise by the
76 Commonwealth, its departments, offices, agencies, and quasi-independent agencies.

77 The Center will engage all stakeholders in the planning process, including but not limited
78 to the union representatives of workers in fossil fuel industries and organizations serving
79 environmental justice populations and individuals living in municipalities at high risk for climate
80 change within the Commonwealth. The Center will coordinate their workforce development
81 planning and research with the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

82 SECTION 3. (a) Subsection (b) of section 2 of chapter 23J of the Massachusetts General
83 Laws shall be amended by inserting, after the word “Alliance;” in line 50, the following words:

84 “1 of whom shall be the president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, or designee; 1 of
85 whom shall be the president of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council, or designee;”

86 (b) Subsection (b) of section 2 of chapter 23J of the Massachusetts General Laws shall be
87 amended by striking out, in line 42, the word “12” and inserting in place thereof the word “14.”