

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Bill Summary

Name: An Act to promote a clean energy future: *To protect our public health, create jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

Associated

Bills:

Redraft of S479, An act relative to 2030 and 2040 emissions benchmarks

Carrying the following bills:

H3994, An Act relative to Massachusetts participation in the Paris Climate Agreement's Green House Gas Emission Standards

S478, An Act relative to a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing

S1974, An Act relative to a clean fuel standard

S477, An Act establishing tracking and reporting requirements for Massachusetts transportation fuels and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change

Proposed

Legislation:

- Allows DEP to adopt rules and regulations to exceed the standards adopted by the United Nations in the Paris Agreement
- Expands definitions in the Global Warming Solutions Act to more directly deal with emissions from all sectors, including transportation vehicles, any building or structure, or any residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, or manufacturing process
- Gives express authority under the GWSA to monitor and regulate indirect emitters as well as direct emitters
- Expands the definition of market-based compliance mechanism
- Allows DOER to procure more offshore wind power and hydroelectricity if it will help achieve the requirements of the GWSA and sets a goal of 5,000 megawatts of offshore wind power for the commonwealth
- Reduces the time between procurements of offshore wind power from 24 months to 18 months
- Expands the amount of small hydroelectric power that can be considered a Class II renewable from 7.5 megawatts to 30 megawatts

- Sets an energy storage target of 1,766 MW by 2025, requires DOER to set a 2030 target by 2020, and sets policies to help them achieve these targets
- Requires a reevaluation of storage procurement targets not less than once every three years and allows DOER to establish alternative compliance payments for load serving entities that fail to hit storage targets
- Requires the Energy Facilities Siting Board to consider not just a proposed project's price, but impact on the environment as well
- Raises the RPS increase to 3% per year and phases in municipal light plants in the RPS
- Allows anaerobic digestion facilities to net meter and exempts them from net metering caps
- Removes net metering caps from solar net metering facilities
- Establishes a statewide solar target of 20% power by 2020 and 30% by 2030
- Requires equitable distribution of solar incentive programs to communities facing barriers to access, including low-income residents and renters
- Allocates solar net metering credits specifically to low-income and environmental justice residents
- Allows publicly-assisted housing residents to receive "retail" reimbursement rate for solar net metering
- Exempts publicly-assisted housing and low-income ratepayers from any monthly minimum reliability contribution
- Moves the date for the establishment of monthly minimum contributions to 2020 and requires advanced metering equipment before a customer may be assessed a minimum monthly reliability contribution
- Allows regional governments to apply for dam and seawall funding
- Adds projects that use nature-based solutions as a priority for dam and seawall grants
- Expands the voluntary accelerated energy rebate pilot program
- Allows for more involvement from impacted communities and ratepayers in DPU proceedings by strengthening intervention rights

- Requires a review of siting impacts and detailed alternative analysis in contract approval cases, including protections to conservation lands
- Prohibits a “pipeline tax” on electric ratepayers
- Protects ratepayers against self-dealing by energy conglomerates
- Allows state agencies to require a hearing to evaluate demand for gas in intrastate gas infrastructure siting cases
- Protects landowners from intrusion by pipeline companies
- Strengthens the Attorney General’s role in DPU proceedings
- Codifies the MOR-EV rebate program and creates a rebate program for electric vehicle charging stations
- Requires that the DOER publish a guide for cities and towns who wish to develop curbside EV charging programs for residents who are unable to install off-street electric vehicle charging
- Requires utilities to submit proposals about time of use energy rates for electric vehicle charging stations
- Requires DOER to complete a study evaluating the costs and benefits of electric vehicle adoption, including, impacts of the distribution system and distribution rates
- Requires DOER and MassDOT to complete and file a report identify important electric vehicle transportation corridors which are high priorities for electric vehicle charging station installation
- Requires DOER to set binding targets for renewable energy growth in all major sectors of the economy,
- Requires DOER issue regulations to ensure that Massachusetts stays on track towards 100 percent renewable energy by 2050
- Directs DOT and DOER to conduct studies identifying pathways towards 100 percent renewable energy in transportation and the building sector, with particular attention to policies that can expand access to renewable energy and energy efficiency options for low-income communities
- Creates a Clean Energy Workforce Development Fund to increase access to jobs in solar, offshore wind, energy efficiency, and other clean energy sectors
- Enables cities and towns to enter into “community empowerment” agreements
- Restricts construction, siting, emissions, and tax exemptions for natural gas compressor stations

- Prohibits utilities from charging ratepayers for the cost of lost and unaccounted for gas
- Requires DEP to set performance waste standards for the reduction of municipal solid waste
- Creates a solid waste reduction assistance fund to municipal and other recycling programs, composting programs, and composting and recycling education programs
- Sets 2030 and 2040 emissions limits
- Requires EOEEA to adopt market-based compliance mechanisms for the transportation sector, for industrial processes, and the residential building sector
- Requires EOEEA to evaluate and adjust these market-based compliance mechanisms once every three years to maximize the ability of the Commonwealth to meet its emissions limits
- Allows DEP to impose a schedule of fees on regulated sources of greenhouse gas emissions to be deposited into a Global Warming Solutions Act Implementation Fund
- Makes municipal light plants subject to the GWSA
- Requires DOER to establish and energy rating and labeling system for residential dwellings
- Requires the results of these energy ratings and labels to be provided to the owner of single-family residential dwellings, multi-family residential dwellings with less than five units, and condominiums
- Authorizes certain special privileges for zero emissions vehicles, including travel in high-occupancy vehicle lanes and designated spots in cities and towns
- Mandates time-of-use rates to incentivize off-peak electric vehicle charging
- Requires DOER and DOT to identify high-priority public electric vehicle charging stations
- Authorizes cities and towns to create a right to charge on the part of homeowners otherwise subject to rules of condominium and homeowners associations
- Establishes energy efficiency standards for certain additional consumer products
- Requires the commonwealth to continue to use the federal standard as a state standard if the federal standard is repealed for certain consumer products

- Requires DOT to promulgate a clean fuel standard
- Requires DEP to promulgate regulations to require producers, importers, and wholesale distributors that sell, supply, or offer for sale transportation fuels in the Commonwealth to track and report the source of any fuel
- Requires DOER to develop a residential property assessed clean energy program
- Establishes a new approach to grid planning that utilizes clean, local energy resources to meet system needs by requiring statewide grid modernization plans, stakeholder participation, and information to accelerate the integration of renewable energy
- Provides protections for consumers, including low-income consumers from remote shutoff and special cost recovery mechanisms
- Requires a comparison of utility infrastructure to lower cost and environmentally preferable local energy resources, before significant expenditures
- Caps residential fixed charges to preserve clean energy incentives and protect low-income consumers
- Enables consumers with solar, electric vehicles, or flexible energy demands to use opt-in time of use rates
- Removes the expiration date for the regulations promulgated under section 3(d) of chapter 21N
- Requires EOEEA to develop a pilot program for solar mobility systems
- Directs EOEEA and DPS to collaborate and develop a comprehensive adaptation management action plan
- Establishes a regional comprehensive adaptation management plan grant program to aid in the development of adaptation plans at the regional level of government
- Creates a coastal buyback program, allowing EOEEA to acquire by voluntary purchase properties repeatedly damaged by severe weather
- Requires the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board to divest the Pension Reserves Investment Trust from fossil fuel companies
- Establishes a Green Energy Development Bank to leverage public and private funds to drive investment in clean energy

- Places a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing within the state for ten years

Estimated

Fiscal

Impact: This legislation is subject to appropriation