

STATE OF NEW YORK

2878

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 30, 2019

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to establish a green new deal for New York task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Green new deal for New York task force. 1. There shall be a
2 task force for a green new deal for New York which shall consist of the
3 following eighteen voting members: three members appointed by the
4 governor, one of which shall serve as the chair of the task force; pres-
5 ident of the New York state energy research and development authority,
6 or his or her designee; the chair of the public service commission, or
7 his or her designee; the commissioner of environmental conservation; or
8 his or her designee; president of empire state development or his or her
9 designee; the commissioner of transportation, or his or her designee;
10 the commissioner of health, or his or her designee; and the commissioner
11 of agriculture and markets, or his or her designee; the three members
12 appointed by the temporary president of the senate, one of whom shall be
13 a representative from the private sector; three members appointed by the
14 speaker of the assembly, one of whom shall be a representative from the
15 private sector; one member appointed by the minority leader of the
16 senate; and one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;
17 and in consultation with the following and other relevant state agen-
18 cies, public authorities, local governments, the federal government and
19 non-governmental organizations: the department of health, the department
20 of labor, the department of state, the division of homeland security and
21 emergency services, the power authority of the state of New York, the
22 long island power authority, the department of taxation and finance, the
23 metropolitan transportation authority, the state university of New York,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 the city university of New York, the New York independent system opera-
2 tor, and others.

3 2. No member of the task force shall be disqualified from holding any
4 public office or employment, nor shall he or she forfeit any such office
5 of employment by virtue of his or her appointment pursuant to this
6 section.

7 3. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their
8 services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses
9 incurred in the performance of their functions pursuant to this section.

10 4. The task force shall hold at least five public hearings. To the
11 extent practicable, such hearings shall be held in different regions of
12 the state. During the public hearings, the task force shall hear the
13 testimony of voluntary witnesses.

14 5. The task force shall develop a detailed statewide, industrial,
15 economic mobilization plan (hereinafter referred to as the "plan for a
16 green new deal for New York" or the "plan") for the transition of the
17 New York economy to become greenhouse gas emissions neutral by 2030 and
18 to significantly draw down greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and
19 oceans and to promote economic and environmental justice and equality.
20 In furtherance of the foregoing, the plan shall:

21 (a) be prepared in consultation with experts and leaders from busi-
22 ness, labor, state and local governments, tribal nations, academia and
23 broadly representative civil society groups and communities;

24 (b) be driven by the state government, in collaboration, co-creation
25 and partnership with business, labor, local governments, tribal nations,
26 research institutions and civil society groups and communities, and the
27 federal government;

28 (c) be executed in no longer than 10 years from the start of execution
29 of such plan;

30 (d) provide opportunities for high income work, entrepreneurship and
31 cooperative and public ownership; and

32 (e) additionally, be responsive to, and in accordance with, the goals
33 and guidelines relating to social, economic, racial, regional and
34 gender-based justice and equality.

35 6. In addition to preparing the plan, the task force shall prepare
36 draft legislation for the enactment of the plan in accordance with this
37 section. Such draft legislation may be prepared concurrently with the
38 development of the plan, or as the task force may otherwise deem appro-
39 priate, provided that such finalized draft legislation shall be
40 completed in accordance with the timing set forth in subparagraph (ii)
41 of paragraph (b) of subdivision 9 of this section.

42 7. The task force shall have the authority to investigate, study, make
43 findings, convene experts and leaders from industry, academia, local
44 communities, labor, finance, environmental justice, technology and any
45 other industry or group that the select committee deems to be a relevant
46 resource. The task force may, at its discretion and as its members may
47 deem appropriate, hold public hearings in connection with any aspect of
48 its investigative functions.

49 8. To enable the task force to carry out the purposes of this article,
50 the task force will use existing staff and resources from appropriate
51 agencies.

52 9. (a) The task force shall submit a preliminary report on the plan to
53 the governor, senate and assembly and online for the public by September
54 1, 2019 and as it deems appropriate from time to time the results of its
55 investigations and studies, together with such detailed findings and

1 interim recommendations or proposed plan or draft legislation, or
2 portion thereof, as it may deem advisable.

3 (b)(i) The task force shall complete the plan for a green new deal for
4 New York and issue a report to the governor, the temporary president of
5 the senate, and the speaker of the assembly by a date no later than
6 January 1, 2020.

7 (ii) The task force shall complete the finalized draft legislation and
8 submit it to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and
9 the speaker of the assembly by a date no later than the date that is 90
10 calendar days after the task force has completed the plan and, in any
11 event, no later than March 1, 2020.

12 (iii) The task force shall ensure that the plan and the draft legis-
13 lation prepared in accordance with this section shall, upon completion
14 be made available to the general public in widely accessible formats
15 including, but not limited to, via at least one dedicated website and a
16 print publication, by a date no later than 30 calendar days following
17 the respective dates for completion.

18 10. (a) The plan for a green new deal and the draft legislation shall
19 be developed with the objective of reaching the following outcomes with-
20 in the target window of 10 years from the start of execution of the
21 plan:

22 (i) dramatically expand existing renewable power sources and deploy
23 new production capacity with the goal of meeting 100 percent of New York
24 state power demand through clean renewable sources;

25 (ii) building a statewide, energy-efficient, "smart" grid;

26 (iii) upgrading every residential and industrial building for state-
27 of-the-art energy efficiency, comfort and safety;

28 (iv) eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing,
29 agricultural and other industries, including by investing in local-scale
30 agriculture in communities across the state;

31 (v) eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from, repairing and improving
32 transportation and other infrastructure, and upgrading water infrastruc-
33 ture to ensure universal access to clean water;

34 (vi) funding massive investment in the drawdown of greenhouse gases;

35 (vii) making "green" technology, industry, expertise, products and
36 services a major export of New York state, with the aim of becoming the
37 undisputed international leader in helping other states and countries
38 transition to completely greenhouse gas neutral economies and bringing
39 about a global green new deal; and

40 (viii) explain how these actions will be financed and what the econom-
41 ic impact will be if we take these actions and if we do not take these
42 actions.

43 (b) The plan for a green new deal and the draft legislation shall
44 recognize that a state, industrial, economic mobilization of this scope
45 and scale is a historic opportunity to virtually eliminate poverty in
46 New York state and to make prosperity, wealth and economic security
47 available to everyone participating in the transformation. In further-
48 ance of the foregoing, the plan and the draft legislation shall:

49 (i) provide all members of our society, across all regions and all
50 communities, the opportunity, training and education to be a full and
51 equal participant in the transition, including through a job guarantee
52 program to assure a living wage job to every person who wants one;

53 (ii) diversify local and regional economies, with a particular focus
54 on communities where the fossil fuel industry holds significant control
55 over the labor market, to ensure workers have the necessary tools,

1 opportunities, and economic assistance to succeed during the energy
2 transition;

3 (iii) require strong enforcement of labor, workplace safety, and wage
4 standards that recognize the rights of workers to organize and unionize
5 free of coercion, intimidation, and harassment, and creation of meaning-
6 ful, quality, career employment;

7 (iv) ensure a 'just transition' for all workers, low-income communi-
8 ties, communities of color, indigenous communities, rural and urban
9 communities and the front-line communities most affected by climate
10 change, pollution and other environmental harm including by ensuring
11 that local implementation of the transition is led from the community
12 level and by prioritizing solutions that end the harms faced by front-
13 line communities from climate change and environmental pollution;

14 (v) protect and enforce sovereign rights and land rights of tribal
15 nations;

16 (vi) mitigate deeply entrenched racial, regional and gender-based
17 inequalities in income and wealth including, but not limited to, ensur-
18 ing that state and other investment will be equitably distributed to
19 historically impoverished, low income, deindustrialized or other margi-
20 nalized communities in such a way that builds wealth and ownership at
21 the community level;

22 (vii) include additional measures such as basic income programs,
23 universal health care programs and any others as the task force may deem
24 appropriate to promote economic security, labor market flexibility and
25 entrepreneurship;

26 (viii) deeply involve state and local labor unions to take a leader-
27 ship role in the process of job training and worker deployment; and

28 (ix) explain how these actions will be financed and what the economic
29 impact will be if these actions are taken and if these actions are not
30 taken.

31 (c) The plan for a green new deal and the draft legislation shall
32 recognize that innovative public and other financing structures are a
33 crucial component in achieving and furthering the goals and guidelines
34 relating to social, economic, racial, regional and gender-based justice
35 and equality and cooperative and public ownership. The plan and the
36 draft legislation shall, accordingly, ensure that the majority of
37 financing of the plan shall be accomplished by the state government,
38 using a combination of a new public bank or a system of regional and
39 specialized public banks, public venture funds and such other vehicles
40 or structures that the task force deems appropriate, in order to ensure
41 that interest and other investment returns generated from public invest-
42 ments made in connection with the plan will be returned to the state,
43 reduce taxpayer burden and allow for more investment.

44 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
45 deemed repealed April 1, 2020.