

STATE OF NEW YORK

2878--A

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 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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 nineteen 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 president of the
12 New York state AFL-CIO or his or her designee; the three members
13 appointed by the temporary president of the senate, one of whom shall be
14 a representative from the private sector; three members appointed by the
15 speaker of the assembly, one of whom shall be a representative from the
16 private sector; one member appointed by the minority leader of the
17 senate; and one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly;
18 and in consultation with the following and other relevant state agen-
19 cies, public authorities, local governments, the federal government and
20 non-governmental organizations: the department of health, the department
21 of labor, the department of state, the division of homeland security and
22 emergency services, the power authority of the state of New York, the

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

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1 long island power authority, the department of taxation and finance, the
2 metropolitan transportation authority, the state university of New York,
3 the city university of New York, the New York independent system opera-
4 tor, and others.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 9. (a) The task force shall submit a preliminary report on the plan to
55 the governor, senate and assembly and online for the public by September
56 1, 2019 and as it deems appropriate from time to time the results of its

1 investigations and studies, together with such detailed findings and
2 interim recommendations or proposed plan or draft legislation, or
3 portion thereof, as it may deem advisable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 (ii) diversify local and regional economies, with a particular focus
55 on communities where the fossil fuel industry holds significant control
56 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.