STATE OF NEW YORK

6218

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 4, 2023

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to enacting "the planned offshore wind transmission act"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as "the planned offshore wind transmission act".

§ 2. Legislative intent. In 2019, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act was signed into law, requiring that New York reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 and by no less than 85 percent by 2050. In addition, the law requires 9,000 megawatt (MW) of offshore wind development by 2035. In anticipation that the state's mandated offshore wind goal will increase, improved planning and coordination is needed to reduce costs and minimize community and environmental impacts of offshore wind expansion in New York state. In addition, a more cohesive approach is needed now to build on the momentum of the Inflation Reduction Act and other once-in-a-generation measures to start the build-out of a lower-cost, lower-impact offshore wind transmission system.

Independent, shared transmission will minimize seabed cabling and shore crossings, reduce overall costs and impacts to ratepayers, and build an ocean grid that complements the resiliency of the onshore grid. This planned approach is already happening in Europe, and it is imperative that New York follows suit. Standards must be established to ensure that offshore wind transmission systems can connect with each other to operate in a network.

§ 3. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section 1885 to read as follows:

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

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§ 1885. The planned offshore wind transmission act. 1. The authority, in consultation with the New York independent system operator, the department of public service, and other relevant state agencies and authorities, shall, upon the expansion of the state's offshore wind megawatt (MW) goal above the current nine thousand MW, establish a plan for improved transmission planning and coordination systems for an offshore grid.

2. The authority shall oversee procurements for independent transmission systems to integrate the next round of offshore wind projects and include recommendations in the plan, established pursuant to subdivision one of this section, to:

a. prioritize community protection both onshore and offshore;

b. minimize impacts on the marine ecosystem;

c. minimize impacts on local municipalities; and

d. streamline the process for the planned transmission process.

3. The authority, in consultation with other relevant state agencies and authorities, shall conduct a benefit-cost-analysis and ratepayer impact study to determine the overall costs of implementing planned transmission and coordinated systems for an offshore grid.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.