STATE OF NEW YORK

4999--B

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 27, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. CUNNINGHAM, FALL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Energy -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to directing the New York state energy research and development authority to conduct a study of the technical and economic feasibility and ratepayer impact of a zero-emission electrical system and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

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

Section 1. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section 1885 to read as follows:

§ 1885. Supplemental study on the technical and economic feasibility of a one hundred percent renewable energy system and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. 1. On or before January first, two thousand twenty-five, and every four years thereafter, the authority, in consultation and coordination with the department of public service and the department of environmental conservation, and the federally designated electric bulk system operator, shall publish and update a comprehensive study to determine the technical and economic feasibility and ratepayer impact of meeting the following goals:

(a) having the statewide electrical demand system be zero-emissions by the year two thousand forty pursuant to section sixty-six-p of the public service law and one hundred percent of the electricity consumed in the state generated by renewable energy resources by the year two thousand thirty-four, and, alternatively, the year two thousand fifty-four.

(b) reducing statewide greenhouse gas emissions by a percentage of nineteen hundred ninety emissions from greenhouse gas emission sources,

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

LBD06331-06-3

pursuant to chapter one hundred six of the laws of two thousand nineteen, as follows:

(i) by two thousand thirty: sixty percent of nineteen hundred ninety emissions; and

(ii) by two thousand fifty: fifteen percent of nineteen hundred ninety emissions.

2. Such study shall include, at a minimum, an assessment of each of the following:

(a) the timing, costs, economic impacts, ratepayer impacts and feasibility associated with pathways to meet these goals pursuant to the final scoping plan adopted by the New York state climate action council pursuant to chapter one hundred six of the laws of two thousand nineteen. In terms of the evaluation of costs, the study shall:

(i) evaluate, using the best available economic models, emission estimation techniques and other scientific methods, the total potential costs and potential economic and non-economic benefits of meeting these goals; and

(ii) evaluate the economic impact of meeting the goals on the state's businesses, jobs, ratepayers and residents assuming:

(A) the renewable and greenhouse gas emissions goals of other states and regions in the United States are at least fifty percent lower than New York state's goals;

(B) the renewable and greenhouse gas emissions goals of other states and regions in the United States are as those in place as of the date of the study;

(C) the existence of technology in place as of the date of the study.

(b) the technical and cost impact on maintaining electric system reliability, including but not limited to, the need for and type of back-up power supplies and of energy storage systems and of zero-emission dispatchable resources to maintain electric system reliability.

(c) the short-term and long-term actions to feasibly meet the goals across all economic sectors, including industry, transportation, agriculture, building construction and energy production, including:

(i) an analysis of the anticipated emission reductions, and the economic implications and ratepayer impact thereof, as a result of each action.

(ii) identification of the anticipated life-cycle implications, consequences, benefits and costs of implementing each action, including implications, consequences, benefits and costs to New York state, local governments, businesses, ratepayers and residents from implementation of each action.

(iii) detailed analysis to estimate the annual and total cost impact on electric and natural gas bills for all customer sectors across the state, including, but not limited to, residential, small and large business customers, associated with the implementation of the adopted scoping plan, along with a range of costs, based upon the selection of various potential decarbonization pathways, to minimize costs and to maximize the total benefits to New York state.

(iv) specific cost study scenarios that show residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional energy consumers', along with local governments, increased costs, not only on the electric system, but also on the gas system.

(A) The analysis shall specify consumers' costs of installing or accessing renewable energy and energy storage, replacing their heating systems, upgrading their electric service, purchasing electric cars, and charging them.

(B) The analysis shall detail how consumers will pay for these measures, assess whether the adopted scoping plan includes sufficient measures to avoid or reduce upfront costs on consumers, and recommend additional affordability measures.

(d) estimated timelines for considering and implementing such actions.

(e) exploration of various renewable technology, energy storage, zero-emission dispatchable resources and energy efficiency deployment scenarios.

(f) a requirement for any new vehicles sold in the state to be powered by electricity generated by renewable energy resources or otherwise to be free of emissions.

(g) proposals for new structures constructed in the state to be net zero-emission structures.

(h) transition to renewable heating and cooling provided by heat pumps powered by renewable energy resources or other means resulting in net zero emissions.

(i) the economic and social benefits of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, taking into account the federal social cost of carbon, any other tools that the authority deems useful and pertinent for this analysis, and any environmental, economic and public health co-benefits (such as the reduction of co-pollutants and the diversification of energy sources), and avoiding, lowering, minimizing, offsetting, or mitigating, to the maximum extent practicable using verifiable measures, any significant increase of the existing disproportionate pollution burden on a disadvantaged community, pursuant to subdivision three of section seven of chapter one hundred six of the laws of two thousand nineteen, provided that the term "pollution" shall have the same meaning as defined in subdivision nineteen of section 1-0303 of the environmental conservation law.

3. Such study shall build upon relevant expertise already at the authority's disposal.

4. The authority may contract with an independent and competitively selected contractor to undertake such study.

5. The authority, and any contractors it may retain for such purposes, shall consult with entities that have resources and expertise to assist in such study, including, but not limited to, academic partners, electric corporations, gas corporations, electricity generating companies, trade organizations, environmental justice groups, labor unions and other stakeholders.

6. The authority shall prepare a report on such study's findings. The authority shall transmit such report along with the study to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the chair of the assembly energy committee, and the chair of the senate energy and telecommunications committee no later than thirty days after the study's completion.

7. The Long Island power authority and the power authority of the state of New York are authorized, as deemed feasible and advisable by their respective boards, to make a voluntary contribution toward the study.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.