

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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5111

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 19, 2025

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

AN ACT enacting the "just energy transition act"

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "just energy transition act".

3 § 2. Legislative findings and statement of purpose. The legislature  
4 hereby finds, determines and declares:

5 (a) New York state, especially New York city, is reliant on fossil  
6 fuels for energy production, making the transition to renewable sources  
7 for the downstate electricity system key to achieving the requirements  
8 of section 4 of the New York state climate leadership and community  
9 protection act, including that seventy percent of the state's electric-  
10 ity be from renewable energy sources by the year 2030 and that one  
11 hundred percent of the state's electricity be from zero-emission sources  
12 by the year 2040.

13 (b) New York state is committed to the responsible replacement and  
14 redevelopment of its fossil fueled generation facilities that currently  
15 ensure resource adequacy in the state, especially in locations where the  
16 health benefits to historically disadvantaged communities can be maxi-  
17 mized, and where the cost effective phasing-out of such facilities can  
18 be done while helping to ensure a just transition for the existing work-  
19 force.

20 (c) A public policy purpose would be served and the interests of the  
21 people of the state would be advanced by directing the New York state  
22 energy research and development authority, in consultation with the  
23 department of public service and the department of environmental conser-  
24 vation, to continue the development of the study commenced in 2022, as  
25 referenced in the climate action council scoping plan of strategies to

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

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1 facilitate the replacement and redevelopment of New York's oldest and  
2 most-polluting fossil fueled generation facilities and their sites by  
3 2030, while ensuring resource adequacy, with renewable energy systems as  
4 defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 66-p of the public  
5 service law, energy storage systems, and electricity transmission and  
6 distribution systems and equipment.

7 (d) It is the intent of the legislature in enacting this act to  
8 empower the New York state energy research and development authority,  
9 department of public service, and department of environmental conserva-  
10 tion, to develop a study as described in the climate action council  
11 scoping plan and paragraph (c) of section three of this act in the  
12 manner authorized and directed herein, and for those entities and the  
13 public service commission, and any other agencies or authorities of the  
14 state as may be required, to commence any proceedings or other initi-  
15 atives necessary to carry out the strategies described therein.

16 § 3. The New York state energy research and development authority is  
17 authorized and directed to:

18 (a) develop a study of competitive options to facilitate the phase-  
19 out, replacement and redevelopment of New York state's oldest and most-  
20 polluting fossil fueled generation facilities and their sites by the  
21 year 2030, with renewable generation options that include those  
22 described in the scoping plan issued by the climate action council under  
23 section 75-0103 of the environmental conservation law, renewable energy  
24 systems as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 66-p of  
25 the public service law, energy storage systems, and electricity trans-  
26 mission and distribution systems and equipment, while ensuring resource  
27 adequacy and other reliability services are maintained, and to do so in  
28 consultation with the department of public service, the department of  
29 environmental conservation, Long Island power authority, and other rele-  
30 vant state agencies and authorities with subject matter expertise, the  
31 federally designated electric bulk system operator, the New York State  
32 Reliability Council, and the owners of such facilities. The study should  
33 prioritize the replacement and redevelopment of such fossil fueled  
34 generation facilities with facilities that will directly assist in  
35 achieving the energy, environmental justice and emissions reductions  
36 requirements of section 66-p of the public service law. The study shall  
37 address the phase-out of at least four gigawatts of fossil fueled gener-  
38 ation statewide capacity in total and prioritize those facilities that  
39 only operate when electricity usage is highest. The study shall include  
40 recommendations of standards and requirements that:

41 (i) significantly reduce the state's electricity system reliance on  
42 fossil fuels, taking into account the requirements and timing of the  
43 state's emission reduction programs;

44 (ii) establish a competitive program to promote private sector invest-  
45 ment in eligible technologies that the public service commission has  
46 determined, after notice and provision for the opportunity to comment,  
47 ensure resource adequacy, while achieving the requirements of section  
48 66-p of the public service law;

49 (iii) provide significant environmental, health and other benefits to  
50 disadvantaged communities as such communities will be defined under  
51 section 75-0111 of the environmental conservation law; and

52 (iv) have significant potential for job creation and retention,  
53 economic development, and just transition opportunities benefiting New  
54 Yorkers and the state's workforce, as described in the scoping plan  
55 issued by the climate action council under section 75-0103 of the envi-  
56 ronmental conservation law; and

1 (v) ensure the availability of assistance under the electric gener-  
2 ation facility cessation mitigation fund established in section 1 of  
3 part BB of chapter 58 of the laws of 2016 to any local government entity  
4 impacted by the replacement and redevelopment of fossil fueled gener-  
5 ation facilities under this section;

6 (b) provide public notice of the study, and ensure the results of  
7 the study are made easily accessible to members of disadvantaged commu-  
8 nities, as defined in section 75-0101 of the environmental conservation  
9 law, and provide an opportunity for public comment on the study of not  
10 less than 60 days and conduct at least two public hearings on the  
11 study, of which at least one shall be held in disadvantaged communities,  
12 as defined in section 75-0101 of the environmental conservation law with  
13 such public hearings offering video participation and accessibility;

14 (c) address public comments and update the study, as appropriate,  
15 especially to ensure resource adequacy and reliability services are  
16 maintained; and

17 (d) deliver the study to the governor, temporary president of the  
18 senate and speaker of the assembly within 180 days of the effective date  
19 of this section.

20 § 4. The department of public service, the department of environmental  
21 conservation, and Long Island power authority shall commence proceedings  
22 and stakeholder processes to establish programs and other initiatives  
23 necessary to carry out the strategies, programs, standards, and require-  
24 ments described in the study referred to in section three of this act  
25 within 60 days of delivery of the study to the governor, temporary pres-  
26 ident of the senate and speaker of the assembly.

27 § 5. The public service commission shall:

28 (a) commence a proceeding to implement the strategies, programs, stan-  
29 dards, and requirements described in the study referred to in section  
30 three of this act within 90 days of delivery of the study to the gover-  
31 nor, temporary president of the senate and speaker of the assembly; and

32 (b) issue an order regarding implementation of the strategies,  
33 programs, standards, and requirements described in the study referred to  
34 in section three of this act no later than July 30, 2026. Such order  
35 shall at a minimum:

36 (i) direct the New York state energy research and development authori-  
37 ty to implement a competitive award process to facilitate the replace-  
38 ment and redevelopment of at least four gigawatts of fossil fueled  
39 generation facilities statewide while maintaining reliability consistent  
40 with the recommendations of the study pursuant to section three of this  
41 act, and that as part of such competitive award process, consideration  
42 shall be given to security of offtake with respect to generation and  
43 transmission; and

44 (ii) direct that with respect to the competitive award process  
45 required, the only eligible electricity generation from hydroelectric  
46 facilities shall be electricity that is generated from non-state-owned  
47 low impact run-of-river facilities located in the state that provide a  
48 year-round electricity capacity resource.

49 (c)(i) Any projects pursuant to this section, or the study provided  
50 herein, shall be deemed public work and shall be subject to and  
51 performed in accordance with articles 8 and 9 of the labor law. Each  
52 contract for such project shall contain a provision that such project  
53 shall only be undertaken pursuant to a project labor agreement. For  
54 purposes of this section, "project labor agreement" shall mean a pre-  
55 hire collective bargaining agreement between the New York state energy  
56 research and development authority, a third party on behalf of the

1 authority, or a recipient of support under this section, and a bona fide  
2 building and construction trade labor organization establishing the  
3 labor organization as the collective bargaining representative for all  
4 persons who will perform work on a public work project, and which  
5 provides that only contractors and subcontractors who sign a pre-negoti-  
6 ated agreement with the labor organization can perform project work. All  
7 contractors and subcontractors associated with this work shall be  
8 required to utilize apprenticeship agreements as defined by article 23  
9 of the labor law.

10 (ii) The New York state energy research and development authority, or  
11 public service commission, where appropriate, shall include requirements  
12 in any procurement or development of a renewable energy generating  
13 project, as defined in this subdivision, that the components and parts  
14 shall be produced or made in whole or substantial part in the United  
15 States, its territories or possessions. The New York state energy  
16 research and development authority's president and chief executive offi-  
17 cer, or their designee may waive the procurement and development  
18 requirements set forth in this paragraph if such official determines  
19 that: the requirements would not be in the public interest; the require-  
20 ments would result in unreasonable costs; obtaining such infrastructure  
21 components and parts in the United States would increase the cost of a  
22 renewable energy generating project by an unreasonable amount; or such  
23 components or parts cannot be produced, made, or assembled in the United  
24 States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of satisfac-  
25 tory quality. Such determination shall be made on an annual basis no  
26 later than December thirty-first, after providing notice and an opportu-  
27 nity for public comment, and such determination shall be made publicly  
28 available, in writing, on the New York state energy research and devel-  
29 opment authority's website with a detailed explanation of the findings  
30 leading to such determination. If the New York state energy research and  
31 development authority's president and chief executive officer, or their  
32 designee, has issued determinations for three consecutive years finding  
33 that no such waiver is warranted pursuant to this paragraph, then the  
34 New York state energy research and development authority shall no longer  
35 be required to provide the annual determination required by this para-  
36 graph.

37 (d)(i) The commissioner of labor, in consultation with labor organiza-  
38 tions, shall develop a comprehensive plan to transition, train, or  
39 retrain employees that are impacted by projects undertaken pursuant to  
40 this act, or the study provided in section three of this act. This plan  
41 shall include a method of allowing displaced and transitioning workers,  
42 including affected labor organizations, to notify the commissioner of  
43 the loss of employment, their previous title, and previous wage rates  
44 including whether they previously received medical and/or retirement  
45 benefits. The plan shall require employers to notify the commissioner of  
46 workers laid off or discharged due to this act.

47 (ii) The commissioner of labor shall create a program pursuant to  
48 which, where applicable and feasible, newly created job opportunities  
49 shall be offered to a pool of transitioning workers who have lost their  
50 employment or will be losing their employment in the energy sector  
51 through projects undertaken pursuant to this act, or the study provided  
52 in section three of this act. Such program shall include a method for  
53 the commissioner of labor to communicate names and contact information  
54 for displaced or transitioning workers to public entities that may have  
55 job opportunities for such workers every 90 days.

1 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all rights  
2 or benefits, including terms and conditions of employment, and  
3 protection of civil service and collective bargaining status of all  
4 existing public employees and the work jurisdiction, covered job titles,  
5 and work assignments, set forth in the civil service law and collective  
6 bargaining agreements with labor organizations representing public  
7 employees shall be preserved and protected. Nothing in this section  
8 shall result in the: (i) displacement of any currently employed worker  
9 or loss of position (including partial displacement as such a reduction  
10 in the hours of non-overtime work, wages, or employment benefits) or  
11 result in the impairment of existing collective bargaining agreements;  
12 (ii) transfer of existing duties and functions related to maintenance  
13 and operations currently performed by existing employees of authorized  
14 entities to a contracting entity; or (iii) transfer of future duties and  
15 functions ordinarily performed by employees of authorized entities to a  
16 contracting entity.

17 § 6. The Long Island power authority shall establish a program or  
18 programs in its service territory consistent with the recommendation of  
19 the study conducted pursuant to section three of this act, the  
20 provisions of section five of this act, and the objectives of this act.

21 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately.