STATE OF NEW YORK

6667

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 19, 2025

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

AN ACT establishing the New York state energy storage siting task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. Establishment and composition. 1. The department of public service shall convene an energy storage siting task force within ninety days of the effective date of this act, hereinafter "task force".

2. The task force shall be composed of 15 members as follows:

(a) the chair of the public service commission, or the chair's designee, who shall be the chair of the task force;

(b) the commissioner of environmental conservation, or their designee;

(c) the chair of the New York state energy research and development authority, or their designee;

(d) the commissioner of homeland security and emergency services, or their designee;

(e) the secretary of state, or their designee;

(f) the state fire administrator, or their designee;

(g) five members appointed by the governor; and

(h) four members appointed by the legislature, two of whom shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, two shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly.

3. Of the four members appointed to the task force by the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly shall each appoint:

(a) One member who has a background or expertise in fire safety and responding to and extinguishing fires; and

(b) One member who represents a not-for-profit trade association representing the energy storage industry.

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

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4. Of the five members appointed to the task force by the governor, the governor shall appoint:

(a) one member who has a background or expertise in clean energy siting; and

(b) one member who has a background or expertise in building and fire codes.

§ 2. Compensation. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

§ 3. Meetings. The task force shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by its chair. The task force shall meet at a minimum of six times per year. A majority of the members of such council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Action may be taken, and motions and resolutions adopted, at any meeting by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the task force.

§ 4. Powers and duties. The task force shall:

1. Review the findings and recommendations of the Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group, summarize other current data and research and provide recommendations including any recommendations for where more data may be required;

2. Support any relevant state entity in any regulatory processes related to energy storage while the task force exists;

3. Create and distribute materials to municipalities and industry professionals regarding energy storage best practices for safety, which may include hazard detection systems, ventilation and cooling strategies for protecting against thermal runaway, fires and explosions, and recommendations for setbacks;

4. Conduct a minimum of three public hearings for input annually;

5. Issue an interim progress report at the end of the first year of the task force's operation. Such interim report shall be delivered to the governor and the legislature and be posted publicly on the department of public service's website; and

6. Issue a final report at the end of the second year of the task force's operation. Such final report shall be delivered to the governor and the legislature, and be posted publicly on the department of public service's website.

§ 5. Facilities and assistance. The department of public service shall provide the task force with such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the task force to carry out its powers and duties. Additionally, all other agencies of the state or subdivisions thereof shall, at the request of the chair, provide the task force with such facilities, assistance, and data as will enable the task force to carry out its powers and duties.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire and be deemed repealed on the one hundred twentieth day after the submission of the final report of the task force pursuant to subdivision six of section four of this act; provided that the chair of the public service commission shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of the submission of the final report of the task force pursuant to subdivision six of section four of this act in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law.