

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1395

5 By: Representative Ennett  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ADVANCED ELECTRICITY JOBS TASK  
9 FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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### Subtitle

11 TO CREATE THE ADVANCED ELECTRICITY JOBS  
12 TASK FORCE.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

20 The General Assembly finds that:

21 (1) Job creation is a priority for the state;

22 (2) The manufacturing, installation, and operation of advanced  
23 electricity systems is a growth industry and should be encouraged;

24 (3) The composition and structure of the nation's electricity  
25 system is transitioning to a system with near zero (0) emissions to be more:

26 (A) Engaging with customers; and

27 (B) Resilient in adapting to weather-induced electrical  
28 grid impacts;

29 (4) Many electric utility companies have voluntarily announced  
30 goals to transition to advanced electricity systems;

31 (5) Many major businesses desire to reduce their carbon  
32 footprint to meet market-driven sustainability goals and may use access to  
33 advanced electricity systems as a determining factor for business location;

34 (6) Planning for the creation of advanced electricity jobs  
35 requires input from all stakeholders;

36 (7) To ensure Arkansas can fully capitalize on the many



1 employment opportunities in this growing industry, the creation of an  
 2 advanced electricity jobs task force can add significant value to the state's  
 3 economic development efforts; and

4 (8) By promoting the adoption of advanced electricity by  
 5 Arkansas businesses and expanding on advanced electricity technical training  
 6 options with educational institutions, the state can continue to grow its  
 7 economy while taking advantage of some of the most innovative initiatives in  
 8 the nation.

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 10 SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Advanced Electricity  
 11 Jobs Task Force – Creation – Duties.

12 (a) As used in this section:

13 (1) "Advanced electricity resource" means any fuel, technology,  
 14 or policy that generates electricity or facilitates the production of  
 15 electricity with near zero (0) life cycle greenhouse gas emissions;

16 (2) "Advanced electricity system" means the entirety of an  
 17 electrical grid system, including without limitation:

18 (A) A diverse portfolio of advanced electricity resources,  
 19 both centralized and distributed generation;

20 (B) An annual electric grid carbon intensity of fifty  
 21 grams carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour (50g CO<sub>2</sub> e/kWh) or less;

22 (C) A transmission and distribution network;

23 (D) Energy storage facilities;

24 (E) Demand response capabilities, including without  
 25 limitation:

26 (i) Smart metering;

27 (ii) Information infrastructure;

28 (iii) Implementation policies; and

29 (iv) Utility and customer communications;

30 (F) Policies and programs that support energy efficiency  
 31 and conservation measures; and

32 (G) Market structures that properly incentivize:

33 (i) Deployment of advanced electricity resources;

34 (ii) Reasonably rapid deployment of an optimal mix  
 35 of advanced electricity resources that provides near zero (0) emission  
 36 electricity at low overall electricity system cost;

1 (iii) Reliable and resilient electricity system  
2 performance; and

3 (iv) Reasonable, stable, nonvolatile electricity  
4 pricing for ratepayers;

5 (3) "Carbon dioxide equivalent" means a metric measure used to  
6 compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of the  
7 global warming potential of the greenhouse gases by converting the amount of  
8 other greenhouse gases to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide with the  
9 same global warming potential;

10 (4) "Carbon intensity" means the amount of global warming  
11 potential of greenhouse gases emitted to produce a given amount of electrical  
12 power, measured on an annual basis and expressed in grams of carbon dioxide  
13 equivalent per kilowatt hour (g CO<sub>2</sub> e/kWh);

14 (5) "Direct emissions" means the carbon intensity of emissions  
15 from operation and maintenance of an energy source;

16 (6) "Greenhouse gas" means carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous  
17 oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and any  
18 other gas identified by the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission  
19 as a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere;

20 (7)(A) "Indirect emissions" means the carbon intensity of the  
21 full energy chain for an energy resource, exclusive of the direct emissions.

22 (B) "Indirect emissions" includes without limitation the:

23 (i) Mining, processing, and transporting of  
24 materials for energy resource equipment;

25 (ii) Manufacturing, transporting, and installing of  
26 energy resource equipment;

27 (iii) Decommissioning or disposing of energy  
28 resource equipment; and

29 (iv) Mining, processing, and transporting of  
30 combustion fuel;

31 (8) "Life cycle emissions" means the sum of direct emissions and  
32 indirect emissions for a given energy resource, expressed in carbon intensity  
33 per unit of energy generated; and

34 (9) "Near zero (0) emissions" means electricity production that  
35 achieves a nominal value of zero grams carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt  
36 hour (0g CO<sub>2</sub> e/kWh) to fifty grams (50g) carbon dioxide equivalent per

1 kilowatt hour (50g CO<sub>2</sub> e/kWh), measured on an annual basis.

2 (b) There is created the Advanced Electricity Jobs Task Force.

3 (c)(1) The task force shall consist of the following members:

4 (A) One (1) chair, who shall be appointed from the  
5 membership of the Senate by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

6 (B) One (1) chair, who shall be appointed from the  
7 membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives or his or her designee;

9 (C) One (1) cochair, who shall be appointed from the  
10 membership of the Senate by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

11 (D) One (1) cochair, who shall be appointed from the  
12 membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives or his or her designee;

14 (E) The Chair of the Senate Committee on City, County, and  
15 Local Affairs or his or her designee;

16 (F) The Chair of the House Committee on City, County, and  
17 Local Affairs or his or her designee;

18 (G) One (1) member of the minority party of the General  
19 Assembly, who shall be appointed from the membership of the Senate by the  
20 President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

21 (H) One (1) member of the minority party of the General  
22 Assembly, who shall be appointed from the membership of the House of  
23 Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

24 (I) One (1) member of the majority party of the General  
25 Assembly, who shall be appointed from the membership of the Senate by the  
26 President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

27 (J) One (1) member of the majority party of the General  
28 Assembly, who shall be appointed from the membership of the House of  
29 Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

30 (K) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development  
31 Commission or his or her designee;

32 (L) The Chair of the Arkansas Public Service Commission or  
33 his or her designee;

34 (M) The Chair of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce or  
35 his or her designee;

36 (N) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Municipal

1 League or his or her designee;

2 (O) The Executive Director of the Association of Arkansas  
 3 Counties or his or her designee;

4 (P) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Electric  
 5 Cooperative Corporation or his or her designee;

6 (Q) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Electric  
 7 Cooperatives, Inc., or his or her designee;

8 (R) The President of Entergy Arkansas or his or her  
 9 designee;

10 (S) The Executive Director of the American Public Power  
 11 Association in Arkansas or his or her designee;

12 (T) The Secretary of the Department of Energy and  
 13 Environment or his or her designee;

14 (U) One (1) member who is a member of academia  
 15 knowledgeable in electricity production and distribution appointed by the  
 16 Arkansas Academy of Science;

17 (V) One (1) member who is a scientific advisor on lung  
 18 health issues appointed by the American Lung Association;

19 (W) One (1) member who is a consumer advocate or his or  
 20 her designee appointed by the Arkansas Citizens First Congress who is:

21 (i) Knowledgeable or experienced in electricity  
 22 production and distribution; and

23 (ii) An employee or member of the Arkansas Citizens  
 24 First Congress; and

25 (X) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Advanced Energy  
 26 Association or his or her designee.

27 (2) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be  
 28 filled by the same process as the original appointment.

29 (3)(A) The legislative members of the task force attending in  
 30 person shall be paid per diem and mileage as authorized by law for attendance  
 31 at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.

32 (B) The nonlegislative members of the task force may  
 33 receive a per diem allowance of up to sixty dollars (\$60.00) when in  
 34 attendance at regular or special meetings of the task force.

35 (d)(1) The cochairs of the task force shall call the first meeting of  
 36 the task force within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act.

1           (2)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings using a digital  
2 access platform, including without limitation online or virtual meetings held  
3 through Zoom.

4           (B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one  
5 (1) time every month but may occur more often at the call of the cochairs.

6           (3) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for  
7 conducting its business.

8           (4)(A)(i) A majority of the members of the task force shall  
9 constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.

10           (ii) Members attending a meeting virtually shall  
11 count for purposes of establishing a quorum.

12           (B) An affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present,  
13 in person or virtually, shall be required for the passage of a motion or  
14 other task force action.

15           (5) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for  
16 the task force.

17           (e)(1) The purpose of the task force is to study and propose:

18           (A) How to best prepare Arkansas to take full advantage of  
19 the transition to an advanced electricity system with respect to job creation  
20 and economic development; and

21           (B) The best pathways that will allow Arkansas to achieve  
22 an advanced electricity system by 2050 or sooner, taking into consideration  
23 the need to:

24           (i) Identify industry training gaps within the state  
25 for relevant advanced electricity resources, including solar, nuclear, fossil  
26 fuels with carbon capture, use and sequestration, wind, geothermal,  
27 hydropower, transmission and distributions systems, information systems,  
28 instrumentation systems, and others;

29           (ii) Assess existing collegiate, technical,  
30 apprenticeship, and career and technical education courses and training  
31 opportunities currently available inside and outside of the state,  
32 identifying best practices that can be replicated;

33           (iii) Work with the Division of Workforce Services  
34 to explore the use of funds received under the Workforce Innovation and  
35 Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq., to develop pathways to prosperity  
36 for residents with barriers to employment through advanced electricity jobs;

1 (iv) Identify emerging best practices regarding  
 2 workforce development and associated coordination of resources to prepare for  
 3 the advanced electricity economy;

4 (v) Identify the magnitude and timetable associated  
 5 with new business development associated with an advanced electricity  
 6 economy;

7 (vi) Achieve an electricity system with near zero  
 8 (0) emissions:

9 (a) At a reasonable cost to ratepayers;

10 (b) With the lowest overall system cost;

11 (c) With reasonably rapid and timely  
 12 deployment; and

13 (d) While maintaining electricity system  
 14 reliability and resilience;

15 (vii) Strive for equity for all customers and reduce  
 16 the energy burden for low-income, underserved, and vulnerable communities;

17 (viii) Determine the appropriate pathways and  
 18 programs for investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and member-owned  
 19 utilities in achieving an advanced electricity system by 2050;

20 (ix) Prioritize approaches that are more applicable  
 21 to decarbonization and electrification of other energy sectors, including  
 22 without limitation industrial processes, transportation, and building  
 23 heating;

24 (x) Identify currently available technologies and  
 25 technology gaps relevant to achieving an advanced electricity system by 2050;

26 (xi) Consider all emerging technologies relevant to  
 27 achieving an advanced electricity system by 2050;

28 (xii) Identify the roles of various programs and  
 29 approaches in achieving an advanced electricity system by 2050, including  
 30 without limitation energy efficiency, conservation, centralized and  
 31 distributed generation, demand response, energy storage, and project  
 32 financing for power sector infrastructure;

33 (xiii) Identify and minimize impacts on vulnerable  
 34 and underserved communities in seeking to achieve an advanced electricity  
 35 system by 2050;

36 (xiv) Prioritize environmental and economic

1 considerations relevant to achieving an advanced electricity system by 2050;  
 2 and

3 (xv) Minimize new generation capacity additions with  
 4 significant emissions that would likely become costly stranded assets.

5 (2) To achieve the purpose under subdivision (e)(1) of this  
 6 section, the task force shall:

7 (A) Evaluate, study, and address the issues identified in  
 8 subdivision (e)(1) of this section; and

9 (B) Recommend specific solutions and legislation necessary  
 10 to provide pathways for Arkansas to maximize advanced electricity jobs and  
 11 economic development and to achieve a statewide advanced electricity system  
 12 by 2050.

13 (f) On or before December 31, 2024, the task force shall file with the  
 14 Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
 15 House of Representatives a final written report of its activities, findings,  
 16 and recommendations, including recommendations for proposed legislation.

17 (g) If the task force determines it is necessary, the task force may  
 18 contract with one (1) or more facilitators to assist the task force with the  
 19 study and report required under this section.

20 (h) The task force expires on December 31, 2024.

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