

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1073

4  
5 By: Representative Ennett  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ADVANCED ENERGY JOBS TASK FORCE;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

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14 TO CREATE THE ADVANCED ENERGY JOBS TASK  
15 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 energy systems is a growth industry and should be encouraged;

24 (3) The composition and structure of the nation's energy system  
25 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 energy 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 energy systems as a determining factor for business location;

34 (6) Planning for the creation of advanced energy jobs requires  
35 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 energy 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 systems by  
 5 Arkansas businesses and expanding on advanced energy 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 Energy Jobs  
 11 Task Force – Creation – Duties – Definitions.

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 improved efficiency, reduced environmental impact, and  
 16 advanced capabilities;

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

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

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

23 (C) A transmission and distribution network;

24 (D) Energy storage facilities;

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

27 (i) Smart metering;

28 (ii) Information infrastructure;

29 (iii) Implementation policies; and

30 (iv) Utility and customer communications;

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

33 (G) Market structures that properly incentivize:

34 (i) Deployment of advanced electricity resources;

35 (ii) Reasonably rapid deployment of an optimal mix  
 36 of advanced electricity resources that provides near zero (0) emissions

1 electricity at low overall electricity system cost;

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

4 (iv) Reasonable, stable, nonvolatile energy pricing  
5 for ratepayers;

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

10 (4) "Direct emissions" means the carbon intensity of emissions  
11 from operation and maintenance of an energy source;

12 (5) "Greenhouse gas" means carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous  
13 oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, or any  
14 other gas identified by the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission  
15 as a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere;

16 (6)(A) "Indirect emissions" means the carbon intensity of the  
17 full energy chain for an energy resource, exclusive of the direct emissions.

18 (B) "Indirect emissions" includes without limitation the:  
19 (i) Mining, processing, and transporting of  
20 materials for energy resource equipment;

21 (ii) Manufacturing, transporting, and installing of  
22 energy resource equipment;

23 (iii) Decommissioning or disposing of energy  
24 resource equipment; and

25 (iv) Mining, processing, and transporting of  
26 combustion fuel; and

27 (7) "Near zero (0) emissions" means electricity production that  
28 achieves a nominal value of zero grams carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt  
29 hour (0g CO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh) to fifty grams carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour  
30 (50g CO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh), measured on an annual basis.

31 (b) There is created the Advanced Energy Jobs Task Force.

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

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

35 (B) One (1) House chair, who shall be appointed from the  
36 membership of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives or his or her designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (M) The Secretary of the Department of Energy and  
28 Environment or his or her designee; and

29 (N) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Advanced Energy  
30 Association or his or her designee.

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

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

36 (B) The nonlegislative members of the task force may

1 receive a per diem allowance of up to sixty dollars (\$60.00) when in  
2 attendance at regular or special meetings of the task force.

3 (d)(1) The cochairs of the task force shall call the first meeting of  
4 the task force within sixty (60) to ninety (90) days of the effective date of  
5 this act.

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

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

12 (3) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for  
13 conducting business of the task force.

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

16 (ii) Members of the task force attending a meeting  
17 virtually shall count for purposes of establishing a quorum.

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

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

23 (e)(1) The task force shall study and propose:

24 (A) How to best prepare Arkansas to take full advantage of  
25 the transition to advanced electricity systems with respect to job creation  
26 and economic development; and

27 (B) The best pathways to:

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

33 (ii) Assess existing collegiate, technical,  
34 apprenticeship, and career and technical education courses and training  
35 opportunities currently available inside and outside of the state,  
36 identifying best practices that can be replicated;

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

5                   (iv) Identify emerging best practices regarding  
6 workforce development and associated coordination of resources to prepare for  
7 the advanced energy economy;

8                   (v) Identify the magnitude and timetable associated  
9 with new business development associated with an advanced energy economy;

10                  (vi) Determine the appropriate ways and programs for  
11 investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and member-owned utilities in  
12 achieving an advanced energy system;

13                  (vii) Prioritize approaches that are more applicable  
14 to decarbonization and electrification of other energy sectors, including  
15 without limitation industrial processes, transportation, and building  
16 heating;

17                  (viii) Identify currently available technologies and  
18 technology gaps relevant to achieving an advanced energy system;

19                  (ix) Consider all emerging technologies relevant to  
20 achieving an advanced energy system;

21                  (x) Identify the roles of various programs and  
22 approaches in achieving an advanced energy system, including without  
23 limitation energy efficiency, conservation, centralized and distributed  
24 generation, demand response, energy storage, and project financing for power  
25 sector infrastructure;

26                  (xi) Identify and minimize impacts on vulnerable and  
27 underserved communities in seeking to achieve an advanced energy system;

28                  (xii) Prioritize environmental and economic  
29 considerations relevant to achieving an advanced energy system; and

30                  (xiii) Minimize new generation capacity additions  
31 with significant emissions that would likely become costly stranded assets.

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

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

36                    (B) Recommend specific solutions and legislation necessary

1 to provide pathways for Arkansas to maximize advanced energy jobs and  
2 economic development and to achieve a statewide advanced energy system.

3 (f) On or before December 31, 2026, the task force shall file with the  
4 Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
5 House of Representatives a final written report of its activities, findings,  
6 and recommendations, including recommendations for proposed legislation.

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

10 (h) The task force expires on December 31, 2026.

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