

# Senate Bill 554

Sponsored by Senator EDWARDS, Representatives READ, THOMPSON; Senator BOQUIST, Representatives GILLIAM, HUFFMAN, JENSON (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Task Force on Renewable Resource Generation and Transmission Development Areas.  
Sunssets task force on date of convening of 2013 legislative session.  
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to renewable energy resource development areas; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Renewable Resource Generation and Transmission**  
5 **Development Areas is established, consisting of 19 members selected to serve or appointed**  
6 **as follows:**

7 (a) **The following individuals are selected to serve:**

8 (A) **The Director of the State Department of Energy, or the director's designee.**

9 (B) **The Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development, or the**  
10 **director's designee.**

11 (C) **The Executive Director of the League of Oregon Cities, or the executive director's**  
12 **designee.**

13 (D) **The Executive Director of the Association of Oregon Counties, or the executive**  
14 **director's designee.**

15 (E) **The Director and Chief Executive of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of**  
16 **the United States Department of Energy, or the director and chief executive's designee.**

17 (b) **The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the**  
18 **Governor shall, by mutual consent, appoint one member.**

19 (c) **The President of the Senate shall appoint two members who are not affiliated with**  
20 **an entity or group otherwise represented among the members selected or appointed.**

21 (d) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members who are not**  
22 **affiliated with an entity or group otherwise represented among the members selected or ap-**  
23 **pointed.**

24 (e) **The Governor shall appoint:**

25 (A) **Two members representing consumer-owned utilities that distribute electricity.**

26 (B) **Two members representing investor-owned utilities that distribute electricity.**

27 (C) **One member representing solar electricity generation technologies.**

28 (D) **One member representing wind electricity generation technologies.**

29 (E) **One member representing renewable energy technologies other than solar or wind.**

30 (F) **One member representing agricultural interests in Oregon.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1       **(G) One member representing the federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.**
- 2       **(2) The task force shall:**
- 3       **(a) Identify renewable resource generation development areas within this state that have**  
4 **potential to support industry development among renewable energy developers for develop-**  
5 **ment of renewable resource generation projects.**
- 6       **(b) Develop a map of existing generation resources and transmission lines and potential**  
7 **renewable resource generation development areas within this state that have potential to**  
8 **support competition among renewable energy developers for development of renewable re-**  
9 **source generation projects.**
- 10       **(3) In the process of accomplishing subsection (2) of this section, the task force shall:**
- 11       **(a) Solicit and receive comments, including written comments, from members of the**  
12 **public.**
- 13       **(b) Consider and give weight to comments received from members of the public, affected**  
14 **counties, cities, electric utilities, customers of electric utilities, environmental groups and**  
15 **other stakeholders or interested parties.**
- 16       **(c) Consider:**
- 17       **(A) The transmission needs of the renewable resource generation development areas to**  
18 **locations in which customers can use the renewable resources;**
- 19       **(B) The potential development of various renewable resources, including, but not limited**  
20 **to, wind, solar, low-impact hydropower, tidal, wave, biomass, biofuel, ethanol and geothermal**  
21 **resources;**
- 22       **(C) The particular difficulty lesser concentrations of renewable resources have in at-**  
23 **tracting development interest and transmission investment;**
- 24       **(D) The potential for local community development and consumption of renewable re-**  
25 **sources; and**
- 26       **(E) The quality, amount and commercial likelihood of the development of the resource,**  
27 **including state and federal statutes that explicitly prohibit the development of specific land**  
28 **designations within this state.**
- 29       **(4) The Director of the State Department of Energy shall convene the task force.**
- 30       **(5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the**  
31 **transaction of business.**
- 32       **(6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting**  
33 **members of the task force.**
- 34       **(7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.**
- 35       **(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-**  
36 **ment to become immediately effective.**
- 37       **(9) The task force shall:**
- 38       **(a) Hold at least four meetings that are open to the public.**
- 39       **(b) Meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of**  
40 **the voting members of the task force.**
- 41       **(10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.**
- 42       **(11) The task force shall submit a report, and may include recommendations for legis-**  
43 **lation, to the Legislative Assembly in the manner described in ORS 192.245 on or before Oc-**  
44 **tober 1, 2012.**
- 45       **(12) The State Department of Energy:**

1 (a) Shall provide staff support to the task force.

2 (b) May engage a mediator or other third-party facilitator to assist the task force in ac-  
3 complishing the duties imposed on the task force by this section.

4 (13) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed  
5 for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by them in the performance of  
6 their official duties in the manner and amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for ex-  
7 penses shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the State Department of Energy for pur-  
8 poses of the task force.

9 (14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
10 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating  
11 to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice that the members of the task force  
12 consider necessary to perform their duties.

13 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2011 Act is repealed on the date of the convening of the 2013  
14 legislative session.

15 **SECTION 3.** This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
16 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect  
17 on its passage.

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