



Substitute House Bill No. 6851

Public Act No. 23-156

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HYDROGEN TASK FORCE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On or before December 31, 2024, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall develop and approve a hydrogen strategic plan. The hydrogen strategic plan shall include recommendations for policies, programs and regulations to grow the state's hydrogen economy, consistent with the greenhouse gas reduction goals established in section 22a-200a of the general statutes, the Integrated Resources Plan approved pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes. The strategic plan shall (1) encourage the use of hydrogen produced from renewable energy, (2) prioritize the application of hydrogen produced from renewable energy to aviation, maritime shipping, ferry transportation, heavy-duty trucking and high-temperature industrial processes, and (3) describe the current and projected cost differences between powering such sectors and processes with hydrogen produced from renewable energy compared to powering such sectors and processes with fossil fuels.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 31-53d of the general statutes is

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repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Covered project" means a renewable energy project [that is situated on land in this state, commences construction on or after July 1, 2021, and has] with a total nameplate capacity of two megawatts or more that is situated on land in the state, or, on and after January 1, 2025, a hydrogen project. "Covered project" does not include (A) any renewable energy project (i) selected in a competitive solicitation conducted by (I) the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, or (II) an electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1, and (ii) approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority prior to January 1, 2022, [or] (B) any renewable energy project under contract with another entity and approved by the relevant regulatory authority, as applicable, prior to January 1, 2022, or (C) any renewable energy project that commenced construction before July 1, 2021;

(2) "Renewable energy project" means a Class I renewable energy source, as defined in section 16-1. "Renewable energy project" does not include any offshore wind facility procured pursuant to section 16a-3h, 16a-3m or 16a-3n;

(3) "Hydrogen project" means any project that produces, processes, transports, stores or uses hydrogen;

[(3)] (4) "Community benefits agreement" means an agreement between (A) the developer of a covered project, and (B) community-based organizations or a coalition of such organizations, that details the project's contributions to the community in which it is or will be sited and the aspects of the project that will mitigate adverse conditions of such community and create opportunities for local businesses, communities and workers;

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[(4)] (5) "Labor organization" means any organization, other than a company union, that exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment, or of other mutual aid or protection, including, but not limited to, (A) bona fide labor organizations that are certified or recognized as the organization of jurisdiction representing the workers involved, (B) bona fide building and construction trades councils or district councils, and (C) state and local labor federations comprised of local unions certified or recognized as the representative of the workers; and

[(5)] (6) "Workforce development program" means a program pursuant to which newly hired employees and existing employees are given the opportunity to develop skills that will enable such employees to qualify for higher paying jobs on a covered project. A workforce development program includes: (A) Apprenticeship training through an apprenticeship program registered with the Labor Department or a federally recognized state apprenticeship agency that complies with the requirements under 29 CFR 29 and 29 CFR 30, as each may be amended from time to time, and (B) preapprenticeship training that will enable students to qualify for registered apprenticeship training.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the Governor, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, seek opportunities for federal funding of projects or activities that advance hydrogen in the state. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall identify the state's share of the projects or activities required to meet the matching requirements of the federal acts making the funds available to the state.

Approved June 27, 2023