

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2030 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, DEAN, O'BRIEN, McNEILL, COHEN,
VITALI, BRIGGS AND NEILSON, MARCH 15, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MARCH 15, 2016

AN ACT

Amending the act of July 9, 2008 (P.L.935, No.70), entitled "An act providing for a report on potential climate change impacts and economic opportunities for this Commonwealth, for duties of the Department of Environmental Protection, for an inventory of greenhouse gases, for establishment of the Climate Change Advisory Committee, for a voluntary registry of greenhouse gas emissions and for a climate change action plan," further providing for climate change action plan.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 7 of the act of July 9, 2008 (P.L.935, No.70), known as the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act, is amended to read:

Section 7. Climate change action plan.

(a) Action plan required.--Within 15 months from the effective date of this act and every three years thereafter, the department shall, in consultation with the committee, submit to the Governor a climate change action plan that, when combined with existing efforts in this Commonwealth to reduce GHG emissions, will cumulatively result in a total GHG emissions

reduction of 50% lower than 2005 levels no later than December 31, 2030, and that:

(1) Identifies GHG emission and sequestration trends and baselines in this Commonwealth.

(2) Evaluates cost-effective strategies for reducing or offsetting GHG emissions from various sectors in this Commonwealth.

(3) Identifies costs, benefits and cobenefits of GHG reduction strategies recommended by the climate change action plan, including the impact on the capability of meeting future energy demand within this Commonwealth.

(4) Identifies areas of agreement and disagreement among committee members about the climate change action plan.

(5) Recommends to the General Assembly legislative changes necessary to implement the climate change action plan.

(6) Provides a schedule of economically feasible benchmarks for GHG emissions reduction goals corresponding with subsequent climate change action plan updates.

(7) Recommends to the Governor any administrative changes necessary to increase collaboration between the department and other State agencies for the implementation of certain GHG emissions reduction strategies.

(8) Identifies actions that the department may execute without legislative changes by the General Assembly that will allow the department to meet GHG emissions reduction goals.

(9) Identifies incentives that the department may utilize without legislative changes by the General Assembly to promote voluntary GHG emissions reduction from other

entities.

(10) Identifies the effectiveness of previously implemented strategies and reevaluates previously rejected strategies to determine feasibility in ensuring the department meets the benchmarks established to meet GHG emissions reduction goals.

(b) Publication.--The climate change action plan shall be published and distributed to the General Assembly and made available to the public in printed form and on the department's Internet website upon submission of the plan to the Governor.

(c) Implementation.--To the extent feasible, the department, in conjunction with other State agencies if necessary, shall implement the measures in the climate change action plan in order to meet the GHG emissions reduction goals in the climate change action plan.

Section 2. This act shall not apply to a climate change action plan submitted under section 7(a) before the effective date of this act.

Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.