

SENATE BILL No. 1045

January 22, 2008, Introduced by Senators BROWN, BIRKHOLZ, RICHARDVILLE, PAPPAGEORGE, KAHN, BISHOP, SANBORN, ANDERSON, BASHAM, HARDIMAN, JANSEN and SWITALSKI and referred to the Committee on Energy Policy and Public Utilities.

A bill to create a commission to investigate renewable energy; to define renewable energy; to determine certain powers and duties of the commission; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "renewable energy commission act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Biomass" means any organic matter that can be converted
5 to usable fuel for the production of energy and is available on a
6 renewable basis, including, but not limited to, all of the
7 following:

8 (i) Agricultural crops and crop wastes.

9 (ii) Wood and wood wastes, including wood and wood waste from
10 wood product and paper processing.

(iii) Animal wastes.

(iv) Municipal wastewater sludge.

(v) Aquatic plants.

(vi) Food production and processing waste.

(vii) Municipal solid waste.

(b) "Renewable energy fuel" means any of the following:

(i) Biomass.

(ii) Geothermal.

(iii) Solar.

(iv) Wind.

(v) Hydroelectric, except for pump storage systems.

(vi) Gas captured from the decomposition of waste.

(vii) That portion of a fuel mixture that is a biomass fuel.

Sec. 3. (1) The renewable energy commission is established within the department of labor and economic growth. The commission shall investigate and recommend strategies that the governor and the legislature may implement to promote the use of renewable energy. The commission shall also identify mechanisms that promote research into renewable energy.

(2) The commission shall identify mechanisms that promote effective communication and coordination of efforts between this state and local governments, private industry, and institutes of higher education concerning the investigation of, research into, and promotion of renewable energy.

(3) The commission may also review any state regulation that may hinder the use, research, and development of renewable energy and recommend changes to the governor and the standing committees

1 of the house and senate that deal with energy issues.

2 Sec. 4. The commission shall consist of the following members,
3 appointed within 90 days of the effective date of this act:

4 (a) The director of the department of labor and economic
5 growth or his or her designee. The director of the department of
6 labor and economic growth shall be the chair of the commission.

7 (b) One member appointed by the governor to represent the
8 Michigan economic development corporation.

9 (c) One member appointed by the governor to represent the
10 department of agriculture.

11 (d) One member appointed by the majority leader of the senate
12 to represent local government.

13 (e) One member appointed by the majority leader of the senate
14 to represent the business community.

15 (f) One member appointed by the majority leader of the senate
16 to represent a statewide association representing energy
17 efficiency.

18 (g) One member appointed by the majority leader of the senate
19 to represent a statewide association representing clean energy.

20 (h) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of
21 representatives to represent the general public.

22 (i) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of
23 representatives to represent municipally owned electric utilities.

24 (j) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of
25 representatives to represent a statewide association that
26 represents renewable energy.

27 (k) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of

1 representatives to represent investor-owned electric utilities.

2 (l) One member appointed by the majority leader of the senate
3 to represent alternative electric suppliers.

4 (m) One member appointed by the governor to represent colleges
5 and universities in this state that are engaged in renewable energy
6 research.

7 (n) Any other member that the governor concludes is necessary
8 to further the commission's purposes.

9 Sec. 5. No later than 1 year after the effective date of this
10 act, the commission shall issue a written report on its
11 investigation and recommendations to the legislature and the
12 governor. Follow-up reports shall be issued at least annually and
13 may be issued more frequently if the commission considers it
14 advisable.

15 Sec. 6. This act is repealed effective January 1, 2011.