

---

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 2354 Session of  
2014

---

INTRODUCED BY SNYDER, OBERLANDER, KORTZ, KOTIK, SANKEY, NEUMAN,  
JAMES, TOPPER, HARHAI, GOODMAN, GIBBONS, LUCAS, HANNA, KULA,  
AUMENT, D. COSTA, CARROLL AND EVERETT, JUNE 18, 2014

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
JUNE 18, 2014

---

AN ACT

1 Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to receive  
2 approval from the General Assembly for a State plan to  
3 regulate carbon dioxide emissions for existing stationary  
4 sources prior to submitting the State plan to the United  
5 States Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
10 Greenhouse Gas Regulation Implementation Act.

11 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

12 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

13 (1) Reasonably priced reliable sources of electric power  
14 generated in this Commonwealth are vital to the health,  
15 safety and welfare of the residents and to the prosperity of  
16 this Commonwealth's economy.

17 (2) It is the responsibility of the Commonwealth to  
18 ensure that a reliable supply of electric power is generated

1 at a level consistent with the need for such electric power  
2 for the protection of public health, safety and the  
3 environment.

4 (3) Coal-fired electric generation power plants are  
5 developed primarily through the free enterprise system and  
6 require a significant commitment of funds and resources from  
7 shareholders, and the potential decision to deactivate or  
8 retire coal-fired electric generation power plants will have  
9 a long-term impact on this Commonwealth's economy.

10 (4) Commonwealth coal-fired electric generation power  
11 plants that sell into the wholesale power markets strengthen  
12 competition and enhance the reliability of the bulk power and  
13 transmission systems and are vital to public interest.

14 (5) The premature deactivation or retirement of coal-  
15 fired electric generation facilities significantly affects  
16 this Commonwealth's economy, environment, electric  
17 reliability and the general health, safety and welfare of  
18 this Commonwealth's residents, businesses and industries.

19 (6) All electric power generators, but primarily coal-  
20 fired electric generation facilities, have been subjected to  
21 ongoing and unmitigated negative market conditions that have  
22 resulted in the premature deactivation and retirement of high  
23 capacity resources in this Commonwealth.

24 (7) Over the past seven years, the Federal Environmental  
25 Protection Agency, the Ozone Transportation Commission and  
26 the Department of Environmental Protection have promulgated a  
27 myriad of environmental rules that have significantly  
28 increased costs to coal-fired electric generation facilities,  
29 making them less competitive in the wholesale power markets.

30 (8) The United States Environmental Protection Agency

1 recently announced another rule governing carbon dioxide  
2 emissions from coal-fired electric generation facilities.

3 (9) Since this Commonwealth is the second largest  
4 electricity producing state in the nation, the top net  
5 exporter of electricity and the fourth largest coal producing  
6 state, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's  
7 new greenhouse gas rule will have a significant, profound and  
8 long-lasting impact on the economy of this Commonwealth.

9 (10) The United States Environmental Protection Agency's  
10 greenhouse gas rule will also affect those communities that  
11 host coal-fired power plants, the employees at those  
12 facilities and residential, commercial and industrial  
13 consumers in this Commonwealth who depend upon the reliable  
14 provisioning of electricity at an economic price.

15 (11) Under the preliminary United States Environmental  
16 Protection Agency greenhouse gas rule, the Commonwealth has  
17 the authority to develop and submit to the United States  
18 Environmental Protection Agency a plan for how the  
19 Commonwealth will meet the United States Environmental  
20 Protection Agency's goals of reducing carbon dioxide  
21 emissions.

22 (12) Due to the extraordinary impact that the United  
23 States Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas rule  
24 will have on this Commonwealth, it is the responsibility of  
25 the General Assembly, working together with the Department of  
26 Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Public Utility  
27 Commission and other important stakeholders, to be directly  
28 involved in the development of the Commonwealth's plan.

29 Section 3. Definitions.

30 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of  
4 the Commonwealth.

5 "Environmental Protection Agency" or "EPA." The United  
6 States Environmental Protection Agency or the Administrator of  
7 the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

8 "State plan." The state plan authorized by the Environmental  
9 Protection Agency under docket EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602.

10 Section 4. State plan development.

11 (a) Development of State plan.--In accordance with the  
12 requirements of the EPA's regulation of carbon dioxide emissions  
13 for existing stationary sources, as published under docket EPA-  
14 HQ-OAR-2013-0602, the department shall develop and submit to the  
15 EPA a State plan for compliance with the regulation of carbon  
16 dioxide from existing power plants. In developing the State  
17 plan, the department shall do all of the following:

18 (1) Summon and examine witnesses and compel the  
19 production and examination of documents and other evidence  
20 that may be necessary for the discharging of duties imposed  
21 under this act.

22 (2) Conduct at least four public hearings in  
23 geographically dispersed locations in this Commonwealth,  
24 including locations that would be directly economically  
25 affected by the EPA's carbon dioxide regulation.

26 (3) Accept written testimony and consider, as part of  
27 the deliberations on the State plan, all written and oral  
28 testimony provided.

29 (4) Consider all of the following in the development of  
30 the State plan:

1           (i) Whether to rely on measures the EPA used to  
2 calculate the carbon dioxide reduction goal, as well as  
3 other measures that were not part of the EPA goal-setting  
4 process.

5           (ii) Whether the Commonwealth should participate in  
6 multistate programs that already exist, or whether a new  
7 multistate carbon dioxide reduction program should be  
8 created.

9           (iii) Whether the Commonwealth should invest in  
10 energy efficiency programs during the compliance period  
11 to assist in meeting the EPA's goal.

12           (iv) Whether the Commonwealth should work in  
13 partnership with other states.

14           (v) When individual power plants must make  
15 reductions.

16           (vi) The extent to which any of the following should  
17 be included in the State plan:

18                   (A) Demand-side energy efficiency programs.

19                   (B) Renewable energy standards.

20                   (C) Efficiency improvements at existing affected  
21 power plants.

22                   (D) Cofiring or switching to natural gas.

23                   (E) Transmission efficiency improvements.

24                   (F) Energy storage technologies.

25                   (G) The retirement or deactivation of existing  
26 affected generation units or facilities.

27                   (H) The expansion of nonemitting sources, such  
28 as nuclear power.

29                   (I) Market-based trading programs.

30                   (J) Other energy conservation programs.

1           (vii) How best to avoid stranded investments in  
2           existing affected power plants.

3           (5) Prioritize the components of the State plan based on  
4           a least-cost compliance approach to benefit consumers of  
5           electricity.

6           (6) Take into consideration the necessity and value to  
7           having a diverse generation fleet to ensure electric  
8           reliability in this Commonwealth.

9           Section 5. Submission of the State plan.

10          (a) Submission for approval to the General Assembly.--No  
11          less than 100 days prior to the department submitting the State  
12          plan to the EPA for approval, the department shall transmit the  
13          plan to the General Assembly for approval. No State plan may be  
14          submitted to the EPA without approval of the General Assembly  
15          under subsection (c).

16          (b) General Assembly duties.--The General Assembly shall  
17          expeditiously consider the State plan developed by the  
18          department under this section as a special order of business. No  
19          less than 20 days after receiving the State plan from  
20          department, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the  
21          Speaker of the House of Representatives shall place a concurrent  
22          resolution on the calendar summarizing the State plan and the  
23          members of each chamber of the General Assembly shall vote upon  
24          the concurrent resolution.

25          (c) Approval.--If both chambers of the General Assembly  
26          adopt the concurrent resolution under subsection (b), the  
27          department may submit the State plan to the EPA for  
28          consideration.

29          (d) Disapproval.--If either chamber of the General Assembly  
30          disapproves the concurrent resolution under subsection (b), the

1 department may not submit the State plan to the EPA for  
2 consideration. The department shall do all of the following:

3 (1) Determine the reasons for disapproval and modify the  
4 State plan.

5 (2) Cause the State plan to be resubmitted to the  
6 General Assembly utilizing the process delineated under  
7 subsection (b).

8 (3) If necessary, request an extension of time from the  
9 EPA.

10 Section 6. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect immediately.