



## Legislation Summary:

### **An Act relative to promote offshore wind energy and renewables**

### **An Act relative to enhancing reliability of renewable resources in the Commonwealth**

Bill number(s): [H3302/S2155](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Rep. Dylan Fernandes and Sen. Julian Cyr

#### Purpose of the bill:

1/6 to 1/3 of fossil fuel generating plants are projected to close in the next decade due to decreased costs and availability of renewable energy and regulatory and legislative mandates. The need to boost renewable energy sources is urgent; we are in a race to replace polluting fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy to meet emissions reductions targets required in the new climate law and the Administration's Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP). Offshore wind is one of the most plentiful natural energy sources we have for meeting this requirement and the NE coast is ideally suited for this industry due to the abundance of wind offshore and shallow waters.

**H.3302** will promote additional large, offshore wind generation solicitation and procurement needed to transition from fossil fuels as quickly as possible. This bill includes provisions governing:

- offshore wind contracts;
- requirements on contractors that include adherence to prevailing wage and labor laws;
- support for minority business involvement by requiring diversity and inclusion plans in contracts with reporting on results;
- promotes private, institutional & municipal procurements;
- includes environmental protections to avoid, mitigate and minimize environmental impacts, with monitoring requirements.

**S.2155**, submitted as an Emergency Preamble, will amend state law (SL 2008: 169) to require:

- energy distributors to solicit proposals for energy storage; requires DOER and distributors to jointly propose a timetable;
- sets a target for gigawatt capacity;
- sets procedures for soliciting/declining proposals;
- requires ongoing solicitations until gigawatt capacity target is reached;
- creates a selection committee and describes membership criteria;
- requires an independent evaluator of bids; requires distributor and winning bidder co-operation.



See [Testimony](#) for more information.

**The League's Position** *Statement of Position on Climate Change Policy, as announced by the National Board, January 2019:*

“The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decision, at all levels—local, state, regional, national, and global.”

#### **Fact Sheet**

[Broad Coalition Applauds Biden Administration Offshore Wind Moves, Signaling United Support for Responsible Development](#) Apr 5, 2021 RENEW Northeast.

