

By Senator Gibson

6-00895B-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Energy Equity Task Force;  
3           creating the task force adjunct to the Department of  
4           Agriculture and Consumer Services for a specified  
5           purpose; providing for the membership and duties of  
6           the task force; requiring the department to provide  
7           staffing and administrative support to the task force;  
8           requiring the task force to submit a report to certain  
9           officials by a specified date; providing for  
10          expiration of the task force; providing an effective  
11          date.

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
15           Section 1. Energy Equity Task Force.—

16           (1) The Energy Equity Task Force, a task force as defined  
17 in s. 20.03(8), Florida Statutes, is created adjunct to the  
18 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide  
19 recommendations for fostering a fair and equitable transition of  
20 this state's energy infrastructure to renewable energy  
21 technologies within minority, underserved, rural, and low-income  
22 communities. The task force shall comply with the requirements  
23 of s. 20.052, Florida Statutes.

24           (2) The task force shall consist, at a minimum, of the  
25 following 11 members who reflect the ethnic and gender diversity  
26 of this state:

27           (a) The following private citizen members appointed by the  
28 Commissioner of Agriculture:

29           1. Four representatives from minority, underserved, rural,

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30 or low-income communities from different regions of this state.

31 2. At least two environmental justice experts.

32 3. At least two energy industry liaisons.

33 4. At least one representative from a statewide  
34 environmentally focused group.

35 (b) One member appointed by the President of the Senate.

36 (c) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
37 Representatives.

38 (3) The task force shall:

39 (a) Recommend appropriate policies, including any necessary  
40 statutory changes, for the equitable siting of energy  
41 infrastructure throughout this state, including, but not limited  
42 to:

43 1. The siting of utility-scale solar arrays in  
44 nonresidential neighborhoods, nonrural residential communities,  
45 and rural communities; and

46 2. The siting of industrial solar array facility sites in a  
47 manner compatible with county or municipality comprehensive  
48 plans.

49 (b) Examine strategies to assist minority, underserved,  
50 rural, and low-income communities in transitioning to energy  
51 efficiency, including energy-efficient appliances,  
52 weatherization, and other methods to benefit from lower energy  
53 costs.

54 (4) The department shall provide staffing and  
55 administrative support to the task force in performing its  
56 duties.

57 (5) The task force shall submit an interim report of its  
58 recommendations to the Governor, the Commissioner of

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59 Agriculture, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
60 House of Representatives by September 30, 2023.

61 (6) This section expires July 1, 2025.

62 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.