

Subject Transition plan for communities impacted by power plant retirement

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Overview

This bill establishes an office and advisory committee that will create a statewide plan for responding to the closure of power plants and the financial impact that has on surrounding communities and workers.

Summary

Section **Description**

1 **[116J.5491] Energy Transition Legacy Office.**

Creates the Energy Transition Legacy Office (ETLO).

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms, including “impacted community,” which means a municipality, tribal government, or county that has a power plant with electric generating units that are scheduled for retirement.

Subd. 2. Office established; director. Creates the Energy Transition Legacy Office (ETLO) within the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), to exist until all impacted communities are supported through the retirement of their electricity generating units. Requires the governor to appoint a director of the ETLO with relevant experience and allows the ETLO to hire staff as needed.

Subd. 3. Purpose. Sets the purpose of the ETLO as serving impacted communities, implementing the energy transition legacy plan, improving communication between affected entities and governments, and developing programs for assisting impacted communities.

Subd. 4. Duties. Enumerates the duties of the ETLO, namely achieving the purposes outlined in subdivision 3, supporting the advisory committee created in section 2, and providing annual reports on the ETLO’s activities under subdivision 5.

Subd. 5. Reporting. Requires an annual report to the legislature beginning January 15, 2023, that analyzes facility closures and job layoffs and the impact

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those have on workers, businesses, and communities, suggests policy responses, and reports updates on ETLO programming and the energy transition legacy plan.

Subd. 6. Gifts; grants; donations. Allows the ETLO to accept gifts and grants as donations to the state. Appropriates any such funds to the commissioner of DEED to support the ETLO.

2 Energy Transition Legacy Advisory Committee.

Creates the Energy Transition Legacy Advisory Committee (ETLAC).

Subd. 1. Creation; purpose. Creates the ETLAC to create a statewide energy transition legacy plan and advise the ETLO on its work.

Subd. 2. Membership. Appoints 15 voting members to the ETLAC, including representatives of the senate, house, Prairie Island Indian community, impacted communities, workers, economic development professionals, utilities, energy nonprofits, and the Coalition of Utility Cities. Stipulates that the ETLAC also includes six nonvoting members, including representatives of the governor, commissioner of employment and economic development, commissioner of labor and industry, commissioner of revenue, executive secretary of the Public Utilities Commission, and commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency.

Subd. 3. Initial appointments and first meeting. Requires initial appointments be made by August 1, 2021, and the convention of the first meeting by September 1, 2021, under the initial chairmanship of the commissioner of employment and economic development.

Subd. 4. Chair. Elects a chair and vice-chair from among the members for a two-year term.

Subd. 5. Open meetings. Subjects the ETLAC meetings to the open meetings law.

Subd. 6. Conflict of interest. Prohibits members from discussing or voting on items where they have a conflict of interest.

Subd. 7. Gifts; grants; donations. Allows gifts and grants to be accepted as donations to the state and used to support the ETLAC.

Subd. 8. Meetings. Requires monthly meetings until the energy transition legacy plan is submitted to the governor and legislature. Allows more frequent meetings.

Subd. 9. Expiration. This section expires the day after the energy transition legacy plan is submitted to the governor and legislature.

Section	Description
3	<p>Minnesota energy legacy plan.</p> <p>Requires the ETLAC to submit a statewide energy transition legacy plan to the governor and legislature by July 1, 2022. Stipulates that the plan must identify impacted communities, analyze the estimated fiscal impact of plant retirements on local governments, explain the process for plant closure and its impact on the local tax base, review existing state programs, and recommend how best to respond to the economic impact of facility closures.</p>
4	<p>Appropriation.</p> <p>Appropriates \$450,000 each year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for the ETLO.</p>



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