

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 2814**

By Delegates Young, Anderson, Zatezalo, Heckert

and Clark

[Originating in the Committee on Energy and

Manufacturing, February 23, 2023.]



1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
2 designated §24-2I-1 and §24-2I-2, all relating to the creation of a Hydrogen Power Task  
3 Force in West Virginia; providing for a short title; providing for the establishment of the task  
4 force; providing for membership appointments and management; establishing a duty of the  
5 task force to study hydrogen-fueled energy in West Virginia; providing specific topics of  
6 study; providing a reporting requirement; and providing for a sunset date of July 1, 2024.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 2I. HYDROGEN POWER TASK FORCE**

**§24-2I-1. Title.**

1 This article shall be known as "Hydrogen Power Task Force Act".

**§24-2I-2. Establishment of the task force.**

1 (a) There is hereby established a task force to study hydrogen-fueled energy in West  
2 Virginia's economy and energy infrastructure. Such study shall include, without limitation:

3 (1) A review of regulations and legislation needed to guide the development and  
4 achievement of economies of scale for a hydrogen energy ecosystem in the state;

5 (2) An examination of how to position the state to take advantage of competitive incentives  
6 and programs created by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the federal  
7 Inflation Reduction Act;

8 (3) Recommendations for post-secondary education or workforce initiatives to prepare the  
9 state's workforce for hydrogen fueled energy-related jobs;

10 (4) An examination of the sources of potential hydrogen, including, but not limited to, coal,  
11 oil, natural gas, hydro, wind, solar, biogas, and nuclear;

12 (5) Recommendations for funding and tax preferences for building hydrogen-fueled energy  
13 facilities at sites throughout West Virginia;

14 (6) Recommendations regarding funding sources for developing hydrogen fueled energy  
15 programs and infrastructure; and

- 16           (7) Recommendations for potential end uses of hydrogen-fueled energy.
- 17           (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 18           (1) A representative from a regulated electric utility company, who shall be appointed by  
19 the Governor;
- 20           (2) A representative from the fossil fuel energy industry, who shall be appointed by the  
21 Governor;
- 22           (3) A representative from the manufacturing industry with experience in hydrogen-fueled  
23 energy technology, who shall be appointed by the Governor;
- 24           (4) A representative from environmental organizations that advocate for renewable energy,  
25 who shall be appointed by the Governor;
- 26           (5) The chairperson of the Public Service Commission or his or her designee;
- 27           (6) The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection or his or her designee;
- 28 and
- 29           (7) The Secretary of the Department of Economic Development or his or her designee.
- 30           (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than 90 days after the  
31 effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority, as applicable.
- 32           (d) The chairperson shall be elected by members of the task force at the first meeting,  
33 which meeting is to be called by the Governor. The first meeting shall be held not later than 120  
34 days after the effective date of this section.
- 35           (e) Not later than July 1, 2024, the task force shall submit an electronic report on its  
36 findings and recommendations to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.
- 37           (f) The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or July 1, 2024,  
38 whichever is later.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Hydrogen Power Task Force.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.