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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 294
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Lang and Romanchuk

Austin C. Strohacker, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Declares Ohio's public policy is to ensure affordable, reliable, and clean energy security within the state in all applications for a certificate from the Power Siting Board.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill adds a policy consideration to the process of siting certain electric generating facilities in Ohio. Under continuing law, the Power Siting Board (PSB) is responsible for approving the siting in Ohio of (1) major utility facilities (which includes electric generating facilities designed and capable of generating 50 megawatts or more) and (2) economically significant wind farms (which, generally, are wind turbines and associated facilities operating at a capacity of at least five but less than 50 megawatts). To operate in Ohio, major utility facilities and economically significant wind farms must obtain from PSB a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for construction, operation, and maintenance.¹

The bill declares it to be Ohio's public policy, in order to ensure affordable, reliable, and clean energy security within Ohio to do the following in all cases involving an application for a certificate from PSB: (1) employ affordable, reliable, and clean energy sources, (2) prioritize domestic production (except nuclear energy), and (3) minimize reliance on foreign adversary nations for critical materials or manufacturing by prioritizing infrastructure necessary to deliver energy to Ohio customers.²

The bill defines an "affordable energy source" as an energy resource that has a stable and predictable cost, provides a cost-effective means of heating, cooling, and generating electricity, and delivers substantial savings comparable to renewable energy sources. The bill specifies that

¹ R.C. 4906.01, 4906.03(E) to (H), and 4906.10, not in the bill.

² R.C. 4906.011(B).

generation III nuclear technology, later nuclear technologies, or significant improvements to existing nuclear energy facilities are not included as affordable energy sources.³

The bill defines a “reliable energy source” as an energy resource that is readily available at all times to meet energy demands with minimal interruptions during high-usage periods and that, when used for power generation, demonstrates a minimum capacity factor of 50%, electricity output that is dispatchable at all times and with the capability to ramp up or down electricity generation within one hour to stabilize the electrical grid, and the ability to complement and provide backup to renewable energy resources during periods of low availability.⁴

The bill defines a “clean energy source” as an energy resource generated using biomass, hydrocarbons which, when burned, meet EPA air quality standards, renewable energy, nuclear reaction, or natural gas.⁵

“Domestic production” under the bill is a fuel source primarily produced in the United States. The bill also defines, but does not use, the term “infrastructure security,” which is infrastructure necessary to deliver energy to customers that minimizes reliance on foreign nations for critical materials or manufacturing. Finally, the bill defines “foreign adversary nation” as the following countries identified under federal law limiting procurement from certain foreign sources: Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea; People’s Republic of China; Russian Federation; and Islamic Republic of Iran.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-15-25

ANSB0294IN-136/sb

³ R.C. 4906.011(A)(1) and (2).

⁴ R.C. 4906.011(A)(3).

⁵ R.C. 4906.011(A)(4); 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 15852(b), not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 4906.011(A)(5), (6), and (7); 10 U.S.C. 4872(f)(2), not in the bill.