

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

*As Engrossed: S2/4/15*  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 183

5 By: Senators E. Williams, *Files*  
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO CREATE PROCEDURES FOR OVERSIGHT OF FOSSIL-  
9 FUEL-FIRED ELECTRIC GENERATING UNITS; TO REQUIRE THE  
10 ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO  
11 PERFORM STUDIES RELATED TO A STATE PLAN TO REGULATE  
12 CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS; TO CREATE PROCEDURES FOR  
13 APPROVAL OF THE STATE PLAN BY THE LEGISLATIVE  
14 COUNCIL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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16  
17 **Subtitle**

18 TO CREATE PROCEDURES FOR OVERSIGHT OF  
19 FOSSIL-FUEL-FIRED ELECTRIC GENERATING  
20 UNITS; TO REGULATE CARBON DIOXIDE  
21 EMISSIONS; AND TO CREATE PROCEDURES FOR  
22 APPROVAL OF THE STATE PLAN BY THE  
23 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 8, Chapter 3, is amended to add  
29 an additional subchapter to read as follows:

30 Subchapter 2 – State Emission Plans – Procedures – Approval  
31

32 8-3-201. Findings – Purpose.

33 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

34 (1) The United States Environmental Protection Agency has  
35 proposed emission guidelines for the regulation of carbon dioxide emissions  
36 from existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units under Section



1 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411;

2 (2) The proposed guidelines will have a major impact on the  
3 economy of Arkansas by regulating how electricity is produced, transmitted,  
4 distributed, and consumed within the state;

5 (3) The United States Environmental Protection Agency requires  
6 states to take the lead role in the regulation of existing fossil-fuel-fired  
7 electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, 42  
8 U.S.C. § 7411, by developing state plans for the establishment and  
9 implementation of performance standards for reducing carbon dioxide emissions  
10 from fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units; and

11 (4) The role of the United States Environmental Protection  
12 Agency is limited to establishing federal emission guidelines that assist the  
13 states in the development of their state plans to regulate carbon dioxide  
14 emissions from existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units and, in  
15 establishing federal emission guidelines, the United States Environmental  
16 Protection Agency must defer to the states regarding methods for regulating  
17 fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units within their jurisdictions.

18 (b) The purpose of this act is to ensure that:

19 (1) The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality receives  
20 approval from the General Assembly for any state plan to regulate carbon  
21 dioxide emissions from existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units  
22 under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411, before the  
23 department submits the state plan to the United States Environmental  
24 Protection Agency; and

25 (2) The state plan is reviewed through a transparent public  
26 process that assesses the full impacts of the state plan on rates,  
27 reliability, and manufacturing greenhouse gas leakage.

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29 8-3-202. Definitions.

30 As used in this subchapter:

31 (1) "Covered electric generating unit" means an existing fossil-  
32 fuel-fired electric generating unit within the state that is subject to  
33 regulation under federal emission guidelines;

34 (2) "Federal emission guidelines" means a final rule,  
35 regulation, guideline, or other requirement that the United States  
36 Environmental Protection Agency may adopt for regulating carbon dioxide

1 emissions from covered electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the  
2 Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411; and

3 (3) "State plan" means a plan to establish and enforce carbon  
4 dioxide emission control measures that the Arkansas Department of  
5 Environmental Quality may adopt to implement the obligations of the state  
6 under the federal emission guidelines.

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8 8-3-203. State plan not mandatory.

9 This subchapter does not require the Arkansas Department of  
10 Environmental Quality to develop a state plan to regulate carbon dioxide  
11 emissions from existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units under  
12 section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411.

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14 8-3-204. Contested controversial case – Adjudicatory process.

15 (a) The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality shall:

16 (1) Consider a state plan as a contested controversial case; and

17 (2)(A) Give notice to all interested persons that a proposed  
18 state plan is a contested controversial case.

19 (B) Notice under subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section  
20 shall be in writing, set forth the agency action, inform the person of the  
21 right, procedure, and time limit to file a contested-case petition, and  
22 provide a copy of the agency procedures governing the contested controversial  
23 case.

24 (b)(1) For a contested controversial case, the department shall assign  
25 a presiding officer who shall give each party a timely opportunity to file  
26 pleadings, motions, and objections.

27 (2) The presiding officer may give each party the opportunity to  
28 file briefs, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, and proposed  
29 recommended, initial, or final orders.

30 (c) To the extent necessary for full disclosure of all relevant facts  
31 and issues, the presiding officer of a contested controversial case shall  
32 give each party the opportunity to respond, present evidence and argument,  
33 conduct cross-examination, and submit rebuttal evidence.

34 (d)(1) The presiding officer of a contested controversial case shall  
35 conduct an evidentiary hearing.

36 (2) The evidentiary hearing shall be open to the public.

1 (e) A party to a contested controversial case, at the party's expense,  
2 may be represented by counsel or may be advised, accompanied, or represented  
3 by another individual.

4 (f)(1) A presiding officer of a contested controversial case shall  
5 ensure that a hearing record is created that complies with this section.

6 (2) A decision in a contested controversial case shall:

7 (A) Be based on the hearing record; and

8 (B) Contain a statement of the factual and legal bases of  
9 the decision.

10 (3) A decision in a contested controversial case shall be  
11 prepared electronically and made available in writing.

12 (4) The hearing record in a contested controversial case shall  
13 constitute the exclusive basis for action by the department regarding the  
14 case and shall contain:

15 (A) A recording of each proceeding;

16 (B) Notice of each proceeding;

17 (C) Prehearing orders;

18 (D) Motions, pleadings, briefs, petitions, requests, and  
19 intermediate rulings;

20 (E) Evidence admitted;

21 (F) A statement of any matter officially noticed;

22 (G) Proffer of proof and objection and a ruling on the  
23 proffered proof;

24 (H) Proposed findings, requested order, and exceptions, if  
25 any;

26 (I) A transcript of the proceeding prepared at the  
27 direction of the department; and

28 (J) A recommended order, final order, or order on  
29 reconsideration.

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31 8-3-205. Assessing impacts of state plan.

32 In developing a state plan for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from  
33 covered electric generating units, the Arkansas Department of Environmental  
34 Quality shall prepare a report, separate from the decision under § 8-3-204,  
35 that assesses the effects of the state plan on:

36 (1) The electric power sector, including without limitation:

1                   (A) The ability of the state to provide affordable  
2 electricity through diversified sources of electricity generation;

3                   (B) The type and amount of electric generating capacity  
4 within the state that is likely to withdraw from the state or switch to  
5 another fuel;

6                   (C) Stranded investment in electric generating and  
7 transmission capacity and other assets and infrastructure;

8                   (D) Potential risks to electric reliability within the  
9 state, including without limitation, resource adequacy risks, transmission  
10 constraints, and natural gas supply and transmission adequacy; and

11                   (E)(i) The amount by which retail electricity and any  
12 replacement fuel prices within the state are forecast to increase.

13                   (ii) A rate impact assessment shall consider non-  
14 fuel costs, including generation, transmission, distribution, surcharges for  
15 renewable energy and energy efficiency, capital investment, upgrades to meet  
16 environmental requirements, utility profits, financing costs for new  
17 investments, unappreciated capital assets retired prematurely, and other  
18 nonfuel costs and surcharges;

19                   (2) Electricity consumers within the state, including without  
20 limitation any disproportionate impacts of electricity and other replacement  
21 energy price increases on middle-income and lower-income households;

22                   (3) Employment within the state, including without limitation  
23 direct and indirect employment effects and jobs potentially lost within  
24 affected sectors of the state's economy;

25                   (4) Economic development within the state, including without  
26 limitation effects on manufacturing, commercial, and other sectors of the  
27 state's economy;

28                   (5) The competitive position of the state in relation to  
29 neighboring states and other economic competitors; and

30                   (6) State and local governments, including without limitation  
31 potential impacts resulting from changes in tax revenues.

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33                   8-3-206. Submission of state plan.

34                   (a) The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality shall not submit  
35 a state plan to the United States Environmental Protection Agency under § 8-  
36 3-207 if the state plan:

1           (1) Results in a rate increase annually for any rate class of  
2 two percent (2%) of the total delivered electricity cost per kilowatt hour or  
3 two percent (2%) of the total natural gas cost per thousand cubic feet; or

4           (2) Results in unreasonable reliability risks.

5           (b) The department shall not submit a state plan to the United States  
6 Environmental Protection Agency until the Legislative Council has approved  
7 the state plan under § 8-3-207.

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9           8-3-207. Procedures for approval of state plan.

10          (a) Not later than fifteen (15) days after adopting a state plan, the  
11 Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality shall transmit to the cochairs  
12 of the Legislative Council a copy of the state plan and the accompanying  
13 report developed under § 8-3-205.

14          (b)(1) Upon receiving the state plan and the accompanying report  
15 transmitted under subsection (a) of this section and after sufficient time  
16 has been provided to assess the state plan and the accompanying report, the  
17 Legislative Council shall vote on approval of the state plan.

18          (2) An affirmative majority vote of the Legislative Council is  
19 required for approval of the state plan.

20          (c) If the Legislative Council fails to approve a state plan under  
21 subsection (b) of this section, the department may submit a revised version  
22 of the state plan, with an accompanying revised report, to the cochairs of  
23 the Legislative Council for approval under this section.

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25          8-3-208. Rate and reliability safety valve.

26          (a) If a state plan approved under this subchapter would result in a  
27 two percent (2%) increase in the total electric or natural gas bill annually  
28 for any customer class, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
29 shall reopen the proceeding under § 8-3-204 and, after the opportunity for a  
30 hearing, revise the state plan to satisfy § 8-3-206(a)(1) and transmit the  
31 revised state plan to the cochairs of the Legislative Council for approval  
32 under § 8-3-207.

33          (b)(1) Each year the regional independent system operators in Arkansas  
34 shall conduct an electric system reliability review and submit the results of  
35 the review to the department.

36          (2) If the electric system reliability review under subdivision

1 (b)(1) of this section results in the identification of unreasonable  
2 reliability risks, the department shall reopen the proceeding under § 8-3-204  
3 and, after the opportunity for hearing, revise the state plan to satisfy § 8-  
4 3-206(a)(2) and transmit the revised state plan to the cochairs of the  
5 Legislative Council for approval under § 8-3-207.

6 (c)(1) Each year the department shall evaluate the impact of  
7 electricity rate increases on the energy-intensive-trade-exposed  
8 manufacturers and the resulting greenhouse gas leakage.

9 (2) If increased electric rates are found to be contributing to  
10 increased manufacturing greenhouse gas leakage, the department shall reopen  
11 the proceeding under § 8-3-204 and, after the opportunity for a hearing,  
12 revise the state plan to avoid manufacturing greenhouse gas leakage and  
13 transmit the revised state plan to the cochairs of the Legislative Council  
14 for approval under § 8-3-207.

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16 */s/E. Williams*  
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