

Act 56 of 2015 Vermont General Assembly—Sec. 26g. SOLAR SITING TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created a Solar Siting Task Force to study issues pertaining to the siting, design, and regulatory review of solar electric generation facilities.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) the Commissioner of Public Service or designee;
- (2) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;
- (3) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;
- (4) a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, appointed by the League;
- (5) a representative of the Vermont Planners Association, appointed by that Association;
- (6) a representative of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, appointed by that Association;
- (7) a representative of Renewable Energy Vermont (REV), appointed by REV;
- (8) a representative of an electric distribution utility appointed by the Vermont System Planning Committee;
- (9) a landscape architect appointed by the Vermont chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects; and
- (10) a Vermont resident with public policy and environmental and energy expertise who is not affiliated with a public utility or developer of energy facilities, by joint appointment of the Vermont Natural Resources Council and the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

(c) Duties. The Task Force shall study the design, siting, and regulatory review of solar electric generation facilities and shall provide a report in the form of proposed legislation with the rationale for each proposal. In studying these issues, the Task Force shall consider the report of the Secretary of Natural Resources to be submitted under Sec. 21c of this act.

(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall be entitled to administrative, technical, and professional assistance from the Agencies of Natural Resources and of Commerce and Community Development and the Department of Public Service and, on request, to the technical and professional assistance of the Natural Resources Board and the Public Service Board.

(e) Proposed legislation. On or before January 15, 2016, the Task Force shall submit its proposed legislation to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate Committee on Finance.

(f) Meetings.

- (1) The Commissioner of Public Service shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2015.
- (2) The Task Force shall select a chair and vice chair from among its members at the first meeting.
- (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.
- (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on March 15, 2016.