

1 AN ACT concerning wind energy.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Lake
5 Michigan Offshore Wind Energy Advisory Council Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Council" means the Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy
8 Advisory Council created under this Act.

9 "Department" means the Illinois Department of Natural
10 Resources.

11 "Local government" means county, township, or
12 municipality.

13 Section 10. The Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy
14 Recommendation Report.

15 (a) In order to assist in the evaluation and consideration
16 of offshore wind energy projects in Illinois waters of Lake
17 Michigan, the Department shall examine the topics identified in
18 subsection (b) of this Section and report its findings and
19 recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by June
20 30, 2012. During preparation of the report, the Department is
21 not expected to fund or perform original scientific studies.

22 (b) In preparing a report, the Department shall evaluate

1 all of the following:

2 (1) Appropriate criteria for the Department to use to
3 review applications for offshore wind development of Lake
4 Michigan lakebed leases.

5 (2) Criteria for identifying areas that are favorable,
6 acceptable, and unacceptable for offshore wind
7 development, including, but not limited to, impacts to
8 wildlife, protected habitats, navigation, commercial
9 fisheries, and recreational uses of Lake Michigan.

10 (3) A recommended process for ensuring public
11 engagement in the Department's process for leasing Lake
12 Michigan lakebed for offshore wind energy projects.

13 (4) Options for how the State shall be compensated for
14 Lake Michigan lakebed leasing.

15 (5) A summary of the lessons learned from other
16 domestic and international offshore wind development
17 experiences, including, but not limited to, those related
18 to public policy, regulatory, and siting concerns for
19 offshore wind development.

20 (6) Identification of local, State, and federal
21 authorities with permitting, siting, or other approval
22 authority for wind power development in Lake Michigan.

23 (7) Recommendations for needed State legislation and
24 regulations governing offshore wind farm development.

25 Section 15. The Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy Advisory

1 Council.

2 (a) The Council is created as a separate entity within the
3 Department of Natural Resources and shall consist of the
4 Director or Chairman, or their designee, of the following 5
5 State agencies:

6 (1) The Department of Natural Resources.

7 (2) The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

8 (3) The Illinois Power Agency.

9 (4) The Illinois Commerce Commission.

10 (5) The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

11 (b) The Director of Natural Resources shall serve as
12 chairperson of the Council. The chairperson shall select the
13 following public members to serve on the Council:

14 (1) One individual representing a statewide
15 environmental organization.

16 (2) One individual representing the tourism industry.

17 (3) One resident of the State representing an Illinois
18 institution of higher education.

19 (4) Two residents of the State representing lakefront
20 communities.

21 (5) One individual representing an electrical utility
22 industry.

23 (6) One individual representing an independent
24 transmission company.

25 (7) One individual representing the offshore wind
26 energy industry.

1 (8) One individual representing local government
2 officials.

3 (9) One individual representing a regional
4 environmental organization.

5 (10) One individual representing the commercial
6 fishing industry.

7 (11) One individual representing the recreational
8 boating community.

9 (c) At his or her discretion, the chairperson may appoint
10 additional public members to the Council.

11 (d) The Speaker of the House, Minority Leader of the House,
12 Senate President, and Minority Leader of the Senate shall each
13 appoint one member of the General Assembly to serve on the
14 Council.

15 (e) Members of the Council shall serve without
16 compensation.

17 (f) The Council shall examine the topics identified in
18 subsection (b) of Section 10 of this Act and shall make
19 recommendations to the Department during the preparation of the
20 report to the General Assembly and Governor.

21 Section 20. Repeal of Act. This Act shall be repealed on
22 July 1, 2012.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
24 2011.