



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB1558

Introduced 2/15/2011, by Rep. Robyn Gabel

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy Council Act. Creates the Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy Council as a separate entity within the Department of Natural Resources. Provides that the Council shall consist of (1) the Director of Natural Resources, the Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the Illinois Power Agency, the Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission, or their designees, (2) certain other public members selected by the Director of Natural Resources, and (3) members of the General Assembly appointed by the House and Senate leadership. Provides that members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as members of the Council. Provides that the Council shall examine certain topics related to offshore wind energy facilities on Lake Michigan and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2011. Provides that the Act shall be repealed on July 1, 2012. Effective July 1, 2011.

LRB097 10218 ASK 50414 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 Council Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Council" means the Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy  
8 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 Council.

14 (a) The Council is created as a separate entity within the  
15 Department of Natural Resources and shall consist of the  
16 Directors or Chairman, or their designees, of the following 4  
17 State agencies:

18 (1) The Department of Natural Resources.

19 (2) The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

20 (3) The Illinois Power Agency.

21 (4) The Illinois Commerce Commission.

22 (b) The Director of Natural Resources shall serve as

1 chairperson of the Council. The chairperson shall select the  
2 following public members to serve on the Council:

3 (1) One individual representing a statewide  
4 environmental organization.

5 (2) One individual representing the tourism industry.

6 (3) One resident of the State representing an Illinois  
7 institution of higher education.

8 (4) One Cook County resident representing lakefront  
9 communities.

10 (5) One Lake County resident representing lakefront  
11 communities.

12 (6) One individual representing an electrical utility  
13 industry,

14 (7) One individual representing an independent  
15 transmission company.

16 (8) One individual representing the offshore wind  
17 energy industry.

18 (9) One individual representing local government  
19 officials.

20 (10) One individual representing a regional  
21 environmental organization.

22 (c) The Speaker of the House, Minority Leader of the House,  
23 Senate President, and Minority Leader of the Senate shall each  
24 appoint one member of the General Assembly to serve on the  
25 Council.

26 (d) Members of the Advisory Council shall serve without

1 compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary  
2 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties  
3 as members of the Advisory Council.

4 Section 15. Duties of the Council. The Council shall  
5 examine the following topics:

6 (1) Criteria that can be used to review applications  
7 for offshore wind development.

8 (2) Criteria for identifying areas that are favorable,  
9 acceptable, and unacceptable for offshore wind  
10 development.

11 (3) A recommended process for ensuring public  
12 engagement.

13 (4) Options for how the State should be compensated for  
14 Lake Michigan bottomland 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 to  
18 public policy, regulatory, and siting concerns for  
19 offshore wind development.

20 (6) Recommendations for needed State legislation and  
21 regulations governing offshore wind farm development.

22 The Council shall assess and make recommendations on these  
23 topics and report its findings and recommendations to the  
24 Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2011.

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

3           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
4    2011.