

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB285

Patron: Helmer

Bill Title: Distributed Energy Resources Task Force established; reports; sunset.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Distributed Energy Resources Task Force as an advisory commission within the executive branch with the purpose of developing a comprehensive strategy to advance the Commonwealth's transition toward integrated distributed energy resource markets and to support the Commonwealth's compliance with certain regulations. The bill describes the membership, powers, and duties of the Task Force and requires the Task Force to submit various reports to the Governor, the State Corporation Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor and the House Committee on Labor and Commerce. The bill sunsets on July 1, 2027.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 1, 44

Explanation: Budget amendments are needed for the House and Senate to pay legislative members and for the Office of the Governor to pay for staff support and travel expenses for legislative and nonlegislative members.

Fiscal Summary: Additional funding will be needed for legislative member compensation. Additionally, the Office of the Governor will require a wage position to staff the Task Force, as well as funding to pay for travel reimbursement costs for members of the Task Force.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
House of Delegates	\$0	\$1,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Senate of Virginia	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office of the Governor	\$0	\$85,354	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$88,954	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
Office of the Governor	0	1 (wage)	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	1 (wage)	0	0	0	0

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Fiscal Analysis: This legislation establishes the Distributed Energy Resources Task Force. The Task Force's membership includes three legislative members: one Delegate, one Senator, and the Chair of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation (currently a Senator). The Clerks' Offices will require additional funding for member compensation when the Task Force holds meetings. Members receive \$300 per day and assuming the Task Force meets four times, the House of Delegates will require \$1,200 and the Senate of Virginia will require \$2,400. Legislative members are also entitled to travel, lodging, and incidentals reimbursement. These costs are estimated at \$397 per member, per meeting, or \$4,764 in total. The travel related expenses would need to be budgeted under the Office of the Governor, as that office is directed to staff the Task Force.

The Task Force also includes several ex officio members and representatives from state agencies. No additional costs are assumed for participation by these individuals, as it is assumed that Task Force meetings will be held in Richmond.

The Governor is directed to appoint other nonlegislative members to the Task Force, and the total number of Task Force Members is to be between 25 and 35. There are ten named members of the Task Force, meaning that there could be between 15 and 25 nonlegislative members. The nonlegislative members would be eligible to receive reimbursement for travel costs. Travel costs are estimated at \$160 per nonlegislative and therefore could be \$16,000 assuming all 25 nonlegislative members are appointed and assuming four Task Force meetings.

The bill directs that the Office of the Governor will provide staff to coordinate the work of the Task Force, manage stakeholder engagement, oversee deliverables, and ensure actionable outcomes as needed. Given that the Task Force will expire on July 1, 2027, it is assumed that a temporary wage position is needed to provide this staff support. The cost of this wage position is estimated at \$64,590.

Other: This bill is similar, but not identical, to SB223.