

HOUSE No. 4187

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 18, 2014.

The committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to whom was referred the joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3968) of Mark J. Cusack and Barry R. Finegold relative to clean energy resources, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4187) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JOHN D. KEENAN.

HOUSE No. 4187

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act relative to clean energy resources.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008, as amended by Chapter 209 of the Acts of
2 2012, is hereby further amended by inserting, after Section 83A, the following new section:-

3 SECTION 83B. Beginning on January 1, 2017 and continuing until December 31, 2020,
4 all distribution companies in the commonwealth, as defined in section 1 of chapter 164 of the
5 General Laws, shall be required in that time period to jointly solicit additional proposals from
6 renewable energy developers and, provided reasonable proposals have been received, enter into
7 additional cost-effective long-term contracts to facilitate the financing of renewable energy
8 generation, apportioned among the distribution companies under this section. The timetable and
9 method for solicitation and execution of such contracts shall be proposed by the distribution
10 companies in consultation with the department of energy resources and shall be subject to review
11 and approval by the department of public utilities. This long-term contracting obligation shall be
12 separate and distinct from the electric distribution companies' obligation to meet applicable
13 annual renewable portfolio standard, hereinafter referred to as RPS, requirements, under section
14 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws.

15 A distribution company may fulfill its responsibilities under this section through
16 individual competitive solicitations that are independent from the joint solicitation(s) for
17 proposals from renewable energy developers and, provided reasonable proposals have been
18 received, enter into cost effective long-term contracts to facilitate the financing of renewable
19 energy generation under this section if, upon petition to the department of public utilities prior to
20 a joint solicitation, the department rules that a solicitation by an individual distribution company
21 would be more cost effective to ratepayers than said distribution company engaging in a joint
22 solicitation.

23 For purposes of this section, a long-term contract shall be a contract with a term of 10 to
24 20 years. In developing proposed long-term contracts, the distribution companies shall consider
25 multiple contracting methods, including long-term contracts for renewable energy certificates,
26 hereinafter referred to as RECs, for energy, and for a combination of both RECs and energy.
27 Beginning January 1, 2017, the electric companies shall jointly select a reasonable method of
28 soliciting proposals from renewable energy developers using a competitive bidding process only.
29 Distribution companies may use timetables and methods for the solicitation of competitively bid
30 long-term contracts approved by the department of public utilities prior to January 1, 2017. A
31 distribution company may decline to consider contract proposals having terms and conditions
32 that it determines would require the contract obligation to place an unreasonable burden on the
33 distribution company's balance sheet, and may structure its contracts, pricing or administration
34 of the products purchased to mitigate impacts on the balance sheet or income statement of the
35 distribution company or its parent company, subject to the approval of the department of public
36 utilities; provided, that such mitigation shall not increase costs to ratepayers. The distribution
37 companies shall consult with the department of energy resources and the attorney general's
38 office regarding the choice of contracting methods and solicitation methods. All proposed
39 contracts shall be subject to the review and approval of the department of public utilities.

40 The department of public utilities shall adopt regulations consistent with this section. The
41 regulations shall: (a) allow renewable energy developers to submit proposals for long-term
42 contracts conforming to the contracting methods specified in the second paragraph; (b) require
43 that contracts executed by the distribution companies under such proposals are filed with, and
44 approved by, the department of public utilities before they become effective; (c) provide for an
45 annual remuneration for the contracting distribution company equal to 2.75 per cent of the
46 annual payments under the contract to compensate the company for accepting the financial
47 obligation of the long-term contract, such provision to be acted upon by the department of public
48 utilities at the time of contract approval; (d) to the extent there are significant transmission costs
49 included in a bid, the department of public utilities shall authorize the contracting parties to seek
50 recovery of such transmission costs of the project through federal transmission rates, consistent
51 with policies and tariffs of the federal energy regulatory commission, to the extent the
52 department finds such recovery is in the public interest; and (e) require that the renewable energy
53 generating source to be used by a developer under the proposal meet the following criteria: (1)
54 have a commercial operation date, as verified by the department of energy resources, on or after
55 January 1, 2017; (2) be qualified by the department of energy resources as eligible to participate
56 in the RPS program, under said section 11F of said chapter 25A, and to sell RECs under the
57 program; and (3) be determined by the department of public utilities to: (i) provide enhanced
58 electricity reliability within the commonwealth; (ii) contribute to moderating system peak load
59 requirements; (iii) be cost effective to Massachusetts electric ratepayers over the term of the
60 contract; and (iv) where feasible, create additional employment and economic development in
61 the commonwealth. As part of its approval process, the department of public utilities shall
62 consider the attorney general's recommendations, which shall be submitted to the department of

63 public utilities within 45 days following the filing of such contracts with the department of
64 public utilities. The department of public utilities shall consider both the potential costs and
65 benefits of such contracts and shall approve a contract only upon a finding that it is a cost
66 effective mechanism for procuring low cost renewable energy on a long-term basis taking into
67 account the factors outlined in this section.

68 The joint solicitations required under this section shall be coordinated among the electric
69 distribution companies by the department of energy resources. If distribution companies are
70 unable to agree on a winning bid under a solicitation under this section, the matter shall be
71 submitted to the attorney general, in consultation with the department of energy resources and
72 the department of public utilities, for a final, binding determination of the winning bid. The
73 electric distribution companies shall each enter into a contract with the winning bidders for their
74 apportioned share of the market products being purchased from the project. The apportioned
75 share shall be calculated and based upon the total energy demand from all distribution customers
76 in each service territory of the distribution companies.

77 Distribution companies shall not be required by any rule, regulation or order of the
78 department of public utilities to enter into long-term contracts under this section that would, in
79 the aggregate, exceed 4 per cent of the total energy demand from all distribution customers in the
80 service territory of the distribution company.

81 An electric distribution company may elect to use any energy purchased under such
82 contracts for resale to its customers, and may elect to retain RECs to meet the applicable annual
83 RPS requirements under said section 11F of said chapter 25A. If the energy and RECs are not so
84 used, such companies shall sell such purchased energy into the wholesale spot market and shall
85 sell such purchased RECs through a competitive bid process. Notwithstanding the previous
86 sentence, the department of energy resources shall conduct periodic reviews to determine the
87 impact on the energy and REC markets of the disposition of energy and RECs under this section
88 and may issue reports recommending legislative changes if it determines that actions are being
89 taken that will adversely affect the energy and REC markets.

90 If a distribution company sells the purchased energy into the wholesale spot market and
91 auctions the RECs as described in the fifth paragraph, the distribution company shall net the cost
92 of payments made to projects under the long-term contracts against the proceeds obtained from
93 the sale of energy and RECs, and the difference shall be credited or charged to all distribution
94 customers through a uniform fully reconciling annual factor in distribution rates, subject to
95 review and approval of the department of public utilities. The reconciliation process shall be
96 designed so that a distribution company recovers all costs incurred under such contracts. If the
97 RPS requirements of said section 11F of said chapter 25A terminate, the obligation to continue
98 periodic solicitations to enter into long-term contracts shall cease; provided however, that
99 contracts already executed and approved by the department of public utilities shall remain in full
100 force and effect.

101 This section shall not limit consideration of other contracts for RECs or power submitted
102 by a distribution company for review and approval by the department of public utilities. If this
103 section is subject to a judicial challenge, the department of public utilities may suspend the
104 applicability of the challenged provision during the pendency of the judicial action until final
105 resolution of the challenge and any appeals and shall issue such orders and take such other
106 actions as are necessary to ensure that the provisions that are not challenged are implemented
107 expeditiously to achieve the public purposes of this section.

108 SECTION 2. (a) By no later than October 1, 2014, or after the department of public
109 utilities issues an order under subsection (b), all distribution companies in the commonwealth, as
110 defined in section 1 of chapter 164 of the General Laws, shall be required to jointly solicit from
111 developers of clean energy generation sources, proposals to deliver an annual amount of
112 electricity of not more than 18,900,000 MWh, via long-term contracts as designed in Section 3 or
113 delivery commitment agreements in Section 4. The distribution companies shall solicit proposals
114 simultaneously under Section 3 and Section 4. Such solicitations may be conducted jointly with
115 utilities and/or procuring entities from other states in New England. If contracts are not executed
116 up to 18,900,000 MWh the distribution companies are authorized to conduct solicitations in
117 subsequent years until the target is met.

118 (b) The department of public utilities may require that the solicitation in subsection (a) be
119 staggered and divided into two or more solicitations to occur within such time and of such size as
120 the department orders provided that such staggered procurements are in the best interest of
121 ratepayers. Prior to any solicitation under this section, the department shall issue an order
122 making such determination.

123 (c) For the purposes of this act, clean energy generation shall mean, individually or
124 collectively, Class I RPS eligible renewable energy generation as defined under section 11F of
125 said chapter 25A or hydroelectric generation. Said clean energy generation shall represent
126 incremental generation delivered into the ISO New England Control Area after June 1, 2014.
127 Incremental generation shall be from sources built after 2003, however, any proposal submitted
128 under this act may include pre-2003 clean energy generation, up to a level necessary to firm and
129 assure delivery of Class I resources under that proposal. All clean energy generation shall use
130 appropriate unit-specific tracking to ensure the delivery of clean energy. Said clean energy
131 generation shall use appropriate unit-specific tracking to ensure the delivery of clean energy.

132 SECTION 3. The distribution companies in the commonwealth shall solicit proposals,
133 from developers of clean energy generation and, provided reasonable proposals have been
134 received, may enter into additional cost-effective long-term contracts to facilitate the
135 Commonwealth's clean energy goals and compliance with the statewide greenhouse gas
136 emissions limits. The solicitation shall be composed of clean energy generation sources
137 apportioned among the distribution companies under this act. The timetable and method for
138 solicitation and execution of such contracts shall be proposed by the distribution companies in

139 consultation with the department of energy resources and shall be subject to review and approval
140 by the department of public utilities. The provisions of this section shall create authority to enter
141 into long term contracts but shall not be construed to impose any mandates to enter into any such
142 long term contracts.

143 For purposes of this act, a long-term contract shall be a contract with a clean energy
144 generation source with a term of 15 to 25 years. A contract may have a term longer than 25 years
145 if the department of public utilities finds that it would be cost-effective for ratepayers when
146 compared to one or more contracts proposed for other generation resources with the same
147 physical attributes but that have a term of no more than 25 years. In developing proposed long-
148 term contracts, the distribution companies shall consider multiple contracting methods, including
149 long-term contracts for renewable energy certificates, hereinafter referred to as RECs, for energy
150 only, and for a combination of both RECs and energy only. This long-term contracting option
151 shall be separate and distinct from the distribution companies' obligation to meet applicable
152 annual renewable portfolio standard, hereinafter referred to as RPS, requirements, under section
153 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws. The procurement of RECs under this act shall apply
154 only to that portion attributable to Class I RPS-eligible renewable energy generation and shall
155 not apply to hydroelectric generation sources larger than 30 MW contracted under this Act.

156 The distribution companies shall jointly select a reasonable method of soliciting
157 proposals from clean energy generation developers using a competitive bidding process only,
158 which may include one developed by a regional organization in coordination with other New
159 England States. A distribution company may decline to consider contract proposals having terms
160 and conditions that it determines would require the contract obligation to place an unreasonable
161 burden on the distribution company's balance sheet, and may structure its contracts, pricing or
162 administration of the products purchased to mitigate impacts on the balance sheet or income
163 statement of the distribution company or its parent company, subject to the approval of the
164 department of public utilities; provided, that such mitigation shall not increase costs to
165 ratepayers. The distribution companies may propose a reasonable form of remuneration for
166 entering into any long term contract that it files with the department of public utilities for
167 approval and the department of public utilities may approve the proposal at the time of approving
168 the long term contract, provided however that the department of public utilities shall provide for
169 an annual remuneration for the contracting distribution companies equal to 2.75 per cent of the
170 annual payments under the contract to compensate the company for accepting the financial
171 obligation of long-term contracts associated with Class I RPS eligible renewable energy
172 generation sources for up to four per cent of the annual load from all distribution customers in
173 the service territories of the distribution companies. The distribution companies shall consult
174 with the department of energy resources and the Attorney General regarding the choice of
175 contracting methods and solicitation methods. All proposed contracts shall be subject to the
176 review and approval of the department of public utilities.

177 The department of public utilities shall adopt regulations consistent with this section and
178 any applicable rules, orders and regulations established by the Federal Energy Regulatory
179 Commission. The regulations shall: (a) allow clean energy generation developers to submit
180 proposals for long-term contracts conforming to the contracting methods specified in the second
181 paragraph; (b) require that contracts executed by the distribution companies are filed with, and
182 approved by, the department of public utilities before they become effective; (c) encourage
183 proposals from diverse energy sources (d) authorize the evaluation of combination proposals
184 which allow for resource diversity; and (e) require that the clean energy generation sources under
185 the proposal meet the following criteria: (1) any Class I RPS eligible renewable energy
186 generation source must be qualified by the department of energy resources as eligible to
187 participate in the RPS program under said section 11F of said chapter 25A, and to sell RECs
188 under the program; and (2) be determined by the department of public utilities to: (i) provide
189 enhanced electricity reliability within the commonwealth, including, where feasible, the ability to
190 replace energy provided by retiring carbon emitting generation sources in the commonwealth;
191 (ii) contribute to energy source diversity; (iii) be cost effective to Massachusetts electric
192 ratepayers over the term of the contract; (iv) where feasible, create additional employment and
193 economic development in the commonwealth; (v) contribute to greenhouse gas reductions
194 pursuant to chapter 238 of the acts of 2008; (vi) demonstrate project viability through evidence
195 including: (a) appropriate federal, state and local permits are substantially likely to be obtained
196 (b) land rights have been or are substantially likely to be obtained, (c) corporate approvals for
197 contracts have been obtained, and (d) security payments have been posted; and (vii) demonstrate
198 that the clean energy generations sources will be delivered to the ISO New England Control
199 Area.

200 As part of its approval process, the department of public utilities shall consider the
201 attorney general's recommendations, which shall be submitted to the department of public
202 utilities within 45 days following the filing of such contracts with the department of public
203 utilities. The department of public utilities shall consider both the potential costs and benefits of
204 such contracts and shall approve a contract only upon a finding that it is a cost effective
205 mechanism for procuring clean energy generation source(s) on a long-term basis taking into
206 account the factors outlined in this act. The department of public utilities shall approve a contract
207 upon a finding that it is likely to result in net ratepayer savings as compared to current and
208 projected future costs associated with energy, RECs, or other obligations of the company over
209 the course of the contract period.

210 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, that portion of the electricity generation
211 attributable to hydroelectric generation larger than 30 MW shall not be eligible to participate in
212 the Commonwealth's RPS program under said section 11F of said chapter 25A.

213 For the purposes of subsection (a), the joint solicitation and evaluation of submitted
214 proposals required under this act shall be coordinated among the distribution companies by the
215 department of energy resources. The electric distribution companies may, but are not required to,

216 select a winning bidder. However, if distribution companies are unable to agree on whether to
217 select a winning bidder for a contract or cannot agree on a winning bid from the solicitations
218 submitted under this act, the matter shall be submitted to the attorney general, for a final, binding
219 decision regarding the bids. The distribution companies may each enter into a contract with the
220 winning bidders for their apportioned share of the market products being purchased from the
221 project. The apportioned share shall be calculated and based upon the total energy demand from
222 all distribution customers in each service territory of the distribution companies.

223 A distribution company may elect to use any energy purchased under such contracts for
224 resale to its customers, and for that portion of the energy generation attributable to Class I RPS
225 eligible renewable generation may elect to retain RECs to meet the applicable annual RPS
226 requirements under said section 11F of said chapter 25A. If the energy and/or RECs are not so
227 used, such companies shall sell such purchased energy into the wholesale spot market and/or
228 shall sell such purchased RECs through a competitive bid process.

229 Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the department of energy resources shall conduct
230 periodic reviews to determine the impact on the energy and REC markets of the disposition of
231 energy and RECs under this act and may issue reports recommending legislative changes if it
232 determines that actions are being taken that will adversely affect the energy and REC markets.

233 If a distribution company sells the purchased energy into the wholesale spot market and
234 auctions the RECs as described in the eighth paragraph, the distribution company shall net the
235 cost of payments made to projects under the long-term contracts against the proceeds obtained
236 from the sale of energy and RECs, and the difference shall be credited or charged through the
237 DBA as provided in Section 5, subject to review and approval of the department of public
238 utilities.

239 SECTION 4: The electric distribution companies may enter into delivery commitment
240 agreements with a clean energy generation suppliers for no more than 9,450,000 MWh in the
241 aggregate. Subject to said maximum MWh, the electric distribution companies may also
242 combine long term contracts with delivery commitment agreements with clean energy generation
243 suppliers from a solicitation. A delivery commitment agreement shall be an agreement:

244 (a) in which the clean energy generation supplier would commit to deliver its output into
245 the electric energy market operated by ISO New England, subject to the rules governing that
246 market as approved by the federal energy regulatory commission, for a designated number of
247 megawatt-hours per year during designated periods. Such output shall be from clean energy
248 generation, as defined in Section 2;

249 (b) in which the clean energy generation supplier would retain complete discretion,
250 subject to the applicable market rules and regulatory requirements, regarding (1) the prices at
251 which it offers to supply electric energy and other electricity products into the ISO New England
252 Control area; (2) which electricity products to supply, as long as it is satisfies the minimum

253 delivery commitment in clause (a) above, and (3) the purchasers in the ISO New England
254 Control area to which it supplies those products;

255 (c) in which clean energy generation supplier would be entitled to retain all revenue
256 received for the sale of its output, subject to the obligation to pay liquidated damages as specified
257 in clause (e) below;

258 (d) in which the clean energy generation supplier's delivery commitment would be
259 contingent upon a transmission line being constructed, maintained, and placed under the
260 operational control of ISO New England that adds sufficient capacity to the ISO New England
261 transmission system to enable the delivery into the New England market of the electric energy
262 comprising the supplier's delivery commitment, pursuant to an appropriate ISO New England
263 transmission tariff regulated by the federal energy regulatory commission that charges the annual
264 transmission costs to the appropriate entities in the participating New England states; the
265 foregoing shall not preclude a clean energy generation supplier from relying upon a FERC-
266 approved merchant transmission line to meet its delivery commitment;

267 (e) in which the supplier would be obligated, in the event it fails to meet its delivery
268 commitment in any designated period, to pay liquidated damages to the electric distribution
269 company, which in turn shall be returned to ratepayers, in an amount agreed to by the parties,
270 taking into account, among all other relevant factors, the transmission charges incurred by the
271 electric distribution company relating to the transmission line described in clause (d) above; and

272 (f) that is accepted or approved, as may be required by applicable law, by the federal
273 energy regulatory commission.

274 Any delivery commitment agreement entered into by the electric distribution companies
275 pursuant to this section, either individually or jointly, shall be subject to the review and approval
276 of the department of public utilities. The department of public utilities shall review the
277 agreement to determine whether it is in the public interest. The department of public utilities
278 shall consider, among any other factors the department of public utilities finds relevant under the
279 public interest standard, whether the delivery commitment agreement is a reasonable and prudent
280 means of meeting the environmental objectives of this Act to obtain delivery of clean energy
281 generation.

282 The department of public utilities is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to
283 implement the provisions of this section, subject to the applicable rules, orders and regulations
284 established by the federal energy regulatory commission.

285 SECTION 5. (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following
286 meanings:

287 “DBA”, a retail diversity benefits allocator authorized by the department of public
288 utilities for each electric distribution company for the purpose of allocating and crediting
289 financing benefits and allocating and recovering the costs of the clean energy procurement
290 program under this section equitably across all customers of each electric distribution company.

291 (b) The costs incurred, including above-market costs, and any below-market financial
292 benefits obtained by the electric distribution companies through the procurements under section
293 3 or section 4 shall be recovered, funded, and credited, as applicable, through a DBA. Each
294 electric distribution company shall reconcile its costs and revenues in accordance with this
295 section separately from the other electric distribution companies.

296 (c) A DBA shall be applied by all electric distribution companies, as reviewed and
297 approved by the department of public utilities for each electric distribution company. A DBA
298 shall apply to all customers receiving any type of delivery service from the electric distribution
299 company or otherwise remaining connected to the distribution system for service when a form of
300 self-supply is not available. A DBA shall be designed to assure recovery of the costs equitably
301 from all distribution customers across all rate classes in a manner that is not by-passable,
302 regardless of whether the customer is purchasing commodity from basic service or a retail choice
303 supplier, self-generating all or a portion of its own energy, receiving net metering credits, being
304 served through third party owned distributed generation, or otherwise self-supplying.

305 The proceeds received from a DBA shall be held by the electric distribution company and
306 credited to a DBA reconciliation account. Electric distribution companies shall be held harmless
307 through the proceeds of the DBA fund for any bad debt associated with collection of the DBA
308 from either basic service customers or retail choice customers.

309 (d) Below-market revenue benefits and all costs incurred by each electric distribution
310 companies under power purchase or other agreements approved by the department of public
311 utilities under this section shall be credited and funded, as applicable, through the applicable
312 DBA of each electric distribution company. Each electric distribution company shall account for
313 its individually received revenue and individually incurred purchase costs.

314 (e) The department of public utilities shall develop an annual filing and rate process that
315 establishes a DBA in advance of an applicable year using forecasts of costs and revenues. Such
316 process shall include an annual reconciliation the actual and forecasted costs incurred by each
317 electric distribution company against all the actual and forecasted revenues received by the
318 electric distribution company that are obtained from the resale of the market products acquired in
319 any power purchase or other agreements approved by the department of public utilities under this
320 section, including an appropriate interest rate on positive and negative balances.

321 (f) Each electric distribution company shall make individual annual filings that reflect its
322 own projected and actual costs and revenues. To the extent that there is a positive balance after
323 the netting of costs against revenues, the balance shall be refunded to all electric distribution

324 customers of the applicable electric distribution company through a DBA, applied as a credit
325 against the total electric bill of each electric distribution customer, subject to the approval of the
326 department of public utilities. To the extent that there is a negative balance after netting of costs
327 against revenues, the negative balance shall be recovered from all electric distribution customers
328 through a DBA, subject to the approval of the department of public utilities.

329 Such process shall be repeated for each year, or for the applicable reconciliation period if
330 shorter than a year, as approved by the department of public utilities.

331 SECTION 6. This act, and the implementation thereof, shall be subject to any applicable
332 rules, orders and regulations established by the federal energy regulatory commission. No
333 approval order or regulation issued by the department of public utilities to implement this act
334 shall constitute approval of any rate or charge collected or imposed by the clean energy
335 generation supplier. Such order or regulation shall not affect in any way the obligation of any
336 party to an agreement entered into with an electric distribution company pursuant to this act to
337 file the agreement with the federal energy regulatory commission or to comply with any tariff or
338 rule approved by the federal energy regulatory commission with respect to the sale or resale of
339 electric energy in interstate commerce.

340 If this act is subject to a judicial challenge, the department of public utilities may suspend
341 the applicability of the challenged provision during the pendency of the judicial action until final
342 resolution of the challenge and any appeals and shall issue such orders and take such other
343 actions as are necessary to ensure that the provisions that are not challenged are implemented
344 expeditiously to achieve the public purposes of this act.

345 SECTION 7. Provided that an electric distribution company has entered into long-term
346 contracts in compliance with sections 83 to 83B, inclusive, of chapter 169 of the acts of 2008, it
347 shall not be required by regulation or order or by other agreement to enter into additional long-
348 term contracts; provided, however, that an electric distribution company may execute such
349 contracts voluntarily, subject to the approval of the department of public utilities, or under the
350 other provisions of this act.

351 SECTION 8. Notwithstanding section 83B of chapter 169 of the acts of 2008, or any
352 other general or special law to the contrary, the long-term contracting requirements set forth
353 under said section 83B shall be reduced by the quantity of energy, from Class I RPS eligible
354 renewable energy generation sources under contract with a distribution company as approved by
355 the department of public utilities under section 3.

356 SECTION 9. The massachusetts clean energy center, in consultation with the department
357 of energy resources and the office of coastal zone management, shall study how to best advance
358 the development of wind generation opportunities off the shore of the commonwealth. The study
359 shall include a plan that evaluates (a) the design, ownership interest, federal and state permitting,
360 and financing; (b) existing state or federal programs available to assist in off shore wind

361 development; and (c) the creation of new programs, grants, rate mechanisms, or other incentives
362 to promote off shore wind development. The center shall present its findings, along with any
363 proposed recommendations and plan of action, to the joint committee on telecommunications,
364 utilities, and energy by December 31, 2014.