An act to add Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 25991) to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.
least 10,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy developments installed off the California coast by 2040, with an interim target of 3,000 megawatts installed by 2030. The bill would require the Energy Commission to submit the strategic plan to the Natural Resources Agency and the Legislature on or before June 1, 2022. The bill would impose various requirements on the Energy Commission in relation to the strategic plan and would require the strategic plan to include specified information relating to identification of sea space, economic and workforce development, transmission planning, and permitting.

The bill would require the Energy Commission, in consultation with relevant state and local agencies, to assess and develop a plan to improve existing waterfront facilities that could support a range of floating offshore wind energy development activities, and would require the PUC, in consultation with the Energy Commission, to include offshore wind energy as a resource for full consideration in the PUC’s integrated resource planning process. The bill would require the Energy Commission, in consultation with the PUC and Independent System Operator, to assess the transmission investments and upgrades necessary to support at least 10,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy developments by 2040, and would require that assessment to include the consideration of eligible renewable energy resource technologies, including, but not limited to, offshore wind energy, as a resource for achieving the above-described policy established in the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018. The bill would require the Energy Commission to convene a working group that includes all relevant state agencies to facilitate, as specified, the permitting process for offshore wind energy facilities and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure off the coast of California.


The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) If developed and deployed at scale, the development of offshore wind energy can provide economic and environmental benefits to the state and the nation.

(b) Offshore wind energy can advance California’s progress toward its statutory renewable energy and climate mandates.
The joint agency report issued pursuant to Section 454.53 of the Public Utilities Code demonstrated both of the following:

1. That California will need at least 10 gigawatts of offshore wind energy developments to achieve its climate goals at least cost.
2. That California will need to build at least 34 gigawatts of new renewable energy and energy storage developments by 2030 and at least 140 gigawatts of new renewable energy and energy storage developments by 2045 to achieve the goals established in SB 100 (2017-18) (Chapter 312 of the Statutes of 2018).

Offshore wind energy development presents an opportunity to attract investment capital and to realize community economic development and workforce development benefits in California, including the development and preservation of a skilled and trained construction workforce to carry out projects, long-term job creation, and development of an offshore wind energy supply chain.

Offshore wind energy can contribute to a diverse, secure, reliable, and affordable renewable energy resource portfolio to serve the electricity needs of California ratepayers and improve air quality, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Subsea electricity transmission could reduce transmission congestion and provide transmission capacity for diverse clean energy development.

With existing technology, each 1,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy will require between 100 and 120 square miles of sea space for development.

The Ocean Protection Council’s strategic plan for 2020 to 2025, inclusive, sets an objective for development of a commercial scale offshore wind energy project in California that minimizes impacts on marine biodiversity and habitat, currents and upwelling, fishing, cultural resources, navigation, aesthetics and visual appeal, and military operations by 2026.

SEC. 2. Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 25991) is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

**Chapter 14. Offshore Wind Generation**

The commission, in coordination with the California Coastal Commission, the Ocean Protection Council, the State Lands Commission, the Office of Planning and Research, the
Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, and
the Public Utilities Commission, and other relevant federal, state,
and local agencies as needed, shall develop a strategic plan to
achieve a goal of at least 10,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy
developments installed off the California coast by 2040, with an
interim target of 3,000 megawatts installed by 2030.

(b) (1) The commission shall submit the strategic plan to the
Natural Resources Agency and the Legislature on or before June
1, 2022.

(2) The plan submitted to the Legislature pursuant to paragraph
(1) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the
Government Code.

(c) The strategic plan shall include, at a minimum, the following
four chapters:

(1) Identification of sea space, including the findings resulting
from activities undertaken pursuant to Section 25991.1.

(2) Economic and workforce development, including the
findings resulting from activities undertaken pursuant to Section
25991.2.

(3) Transmission planning, including the findings resulting from
activities undertaken pursuant to Section 25991.3.

(4) Permitting, including the findings resulting from activities
undertaken pursuant to Section 25991.4.

(d) (1) The strategic plan shall emphasize and prioritize
near-term actions, particularly related to port retrofits and
investments and the workforce, to accommodate the probable
immediate need for jobs and economic development.

(2) In considering port retrofits, the strategic plan shall strive
for compatibility with other harbor tenants and ocean users to
ensure that the local benefits related to offshore wind energy
construction complement other local industries.

(3) The strategic plan shall emphasize and prioritize actions that
will improve port infrastructure to support land-based work for
the local workforce.

(e) The development of the strategic plan regarding workforce
development shall include consultation with representatives of key
labor organizations and apprenticeship programs that would be
involved in dispatching and training the construction workforce.

25991.1. The commission shall work with key stakeholders,
state and federal agencies, and the offshore wind energy industry
to identify suitable sea space for wind energy areas in federal waters sufficient to accommodate at least 10,000 megawatts of offshore wind generation off California’s coast, with a plan to assess and address environmental impacts and land use conflicts in accordance with California’s long-term renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

25991.2. (a) The commission, in consultation with relevant state and local agencies, shall assess and develop a plan to improve existing waterfront facilities that could support a range of floating offshore wind energy development activities, including construction and staging of foundations, manufacturing of components, final assembly, and long-term operations and maintenance facilities.

(b) The assessment undertaken pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include a detailed assessment of the necessary investments in California seaports to support offshore wind energy activities, including construction, assembly, and operations and maintenance. The assessment shall detail the potential availability of land and water acreage at each seaport, including competing and existing uses, infrastructure feasibility, access to deep water, and bridge height restrictions.

(c) The assessment undertaken pursuant to subdivision (a) shall analyze workforce development needs for the California offshore wind energy industry, including occupational safety requirements, and the need to require the use of a skilled and trained workforce to perform all work. The assessment shall also analyze the need for the Division of Apprenticeship Standards to develop curriculum for in-person classroom and laboratory advanced safety training for workers.

(d) The assessment undertaken pursuant to subdivision (a) shall consider and make recommendations for workforce standards for offshore wind energy facilities and associated infrastructure, including, but not limited to, prevailing wage, skilled and trained workforce, apprenticeship, local hiring, and targeted hiring, that ensure sustained and equitable economic development benefits.

(e) The assessment undertaken pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include consultation with representatives of key labor organizations and apprenticeship programs that would be involved in dispatching and training the construction workforce.
25991.3. (a) The commission, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission and the Independent System Operator, shall assess the transmission investments and upgrades necessary to support at least 10,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy developments by 2040.

(b) The assessment undertaken pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include consideration of eligible renewable energy resource technologies, including, but not limited to, offshore wind energy, as a resource for achieving the policy described in subdivision (a) of Section 454.53 of the Public Utilities Code.

(c) The Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the commission, shall include offshore wind energy as a resource for full consideration in the Public Utilities Commission’s integrated resource planning process.

25991.4. (a) (1) The commission shall convene a working group that includes all relevant state agencies to collectively develop and produce guidelines, timeframes, and milestones for a coordinated, comprehensive, and efficient permitting process for offshore wind energy facilities and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure off the coast of California.

(2) The working group shall meet no less than once per month to develop a comprehensive and efficient state and federal permitting program for floating offshore wind energy developments in federal waters, to be incorporated into the strategic plan. The program shall include a goal for the permitting timeframe, clearly define state agency roles, responsibilities, and decisionmaking authority, and include interfaces with federal agencies, including timing, sequence, and coordination with federal permitting agencies, and coordination between reviews under the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000)) and the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.).

(b) The commission, in coordination with the State Air Resources Board, shall explore and identify how offshore wind energy development, to the scale identified in the strategic plan, could provide environmental and air quality benefits to the state and to disadvantaged communities.