



**Office of  
Representative Hannah E. Kane  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

*For Immediate Release*

Contact: Anna Darrow, 617-722-2810, [Anna.Darrow@mahouse.gov](mailto:Anna.Darrow@mahouse.gov)

January 5, 2021

## **Rep. Kane supports climate change bill targeting net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**

**BOSTON** – State Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) recently supported a comprehensive climate change bill that establishes short and long-term targets designed to help Massachusetts reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050.

Senate Bill 2995, *An Act creating a next-generation roadmap for Massachusetts climate policy*, was enacted by the House of Representatives on a vote of 145-9 on January 4. The bill, which was negotiated by a six-member legislative conference committee, represents a compromise between two earlier versions of the bill passed by the House and Senate.

Senate Bill 2995 requires the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), in consultation with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), to adopt greenhouse gas reduction targets in five year increments beginning in 2025, with the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Each of these targets must be accompanied by a comprehensive, clear, and specific roadmap plan for reaching these goals. Under the bill, statewide emissions must be reduced by 50% compared to 1990 levels in 2030, by 75% in 2040, and by at least 85% in 2050.

Senate Bill 2995 also accelerates the Class I Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard that requires electric utility companies to increase their renewable energy purchases. A 2018 law established a target of 35% renewable energy purchases by 2030, but Senate Bill 2995 increases this target to 40% by 2030 and requires annual increases of 1% for each subsequent year.

Senate Bill 2995 establishes a new Clean Energy Equity Workforce and Market Development Program within the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) that will be funded at \$12 million annually. This program will provide workforce training, educational and professional development, job placement, startup opportunities and grants promoting participation in the Commonwealth's energy efficiency, clean energy, and clean heating and cooling industries. The bill also includes funding authorization for the research, design, and evaluation of pilot programs designed to promote energy innovation.

Senate Bill 2995 also addresses the issue of gas pipeline safety by requiring gas distribution companies to maintain accurate and timely records of any Grade 3 leaks that, upon re-inspection, are upgraded to a Grade 1 or 2 leak. The state's Department of Public Utilities (DPU) will be responsible for establishing regulations regarding the maintenance, timely updating, accuracy, and security of gas distribution

company maps and records. Gas companies will also be required to file plans to address aging or leaking natural gas infrastructure within the Commonwealth.

In addition to requiring DPU to establish rules and regulations regarding contractor certification and whistleblower protections for public utility employees of gas and electric companies, Senate Bill 2995 also directs DPU to establish a publicly accessible database on all gas provider customer complaints it receives, and to develop a process for investigating and responding to complaints in a timely manner. The bill also increases the fines DPU can impose on a gas or electric company for violating acceptable performance standards for emergency preparation and restoration of service. The bill doubles the maximum fine from \$250,000 to \$500,000, and allows DPU to impose a maximum combined penalty of up to \$50 million for a series of violations.

Representative Kane said the climate change bill also:

- Updates state energy efficiency standards for common household and commercial appliances;
- Expands offshore wind procurements by 2,400 megawatts for a total of 5,600 megawatts, and shortens the frequency of procurements from 24 months to 18 months;
- Establishes a greenhouse gas emissions standard for all municipal lighting plants and requires them to achieve 50% non-carbon emitting electricity by 2030, 75% by 2040, and net zero emissions by 2050;
- Codifies “environmental justice populations” based on annual household median income, minority population and percentage of households lacking English language proficiency, and requires an environmental impact report for all projects located within 1 mile of an environmental justice population, or within 5 miles of an environmental justice population of the project is likely to cause air quality damage;
- Establishes a Low-Income Services Solar Program to provide solar energy technology to nonprofit organizations offering support services related to food security, homelessness and emergency shelter;
- Amends the definition of a Class I net metering facility to allow small municipal buildings with a generating capacity of less than 60 kilowatts to install rooftop solar; and
- Incorporates the use of natural and working lands – including forests – to promote natural carbon sequestration.

Senate Bill 2995 is now before Governor Charlie Baker for his review.

###