

HB 15

- Decreases the Tangible Personal Property (TPP) tax on new generation and energy conversion equipment from 25% to 7% starting in tax year 2027.
 - Existing infrastructure needs to be converted or repowered to qualify for the 7% reduction.
 - Convert means switch fuel input from one energy source to another.
 - Repower means replacement of enough of the original production equipment to make an original production facility equivalent to a new facility, such that at least 80 percent of the true value of the production equipment derives from new production equipment installed as part of the replacement project.
- Reduces TPP tax on new transmission, distribution, and pipeline infrastructure from 88% to 25% starting in tax year 2027.
- Clarifies that existing Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements will continue.
- Brings parity for energy storage by treating it like generation related to the TPP tax.
- Allows local communities to apply to the Department of Development for a “priority investment area” designation. If granted, the Ohio Power Siting Board’s (OPSB) process is expedited no later than 45 days after the application is determined in compliance with all application requirements (45 days) and the company of the project does not have to pay TPP tax on transmission, distribution, and pipeline infrastructure for 5 years.
- Allows other forms of generation on former mine sites, brownfields, and PIAs to be eligible for the Brownfield Remediation Program. These projects are considered a “PIA Eligible Project” and cannot be awarded more than \$10 million from the Department of Development.
- Makes changes to the refund provisions saying utilities will issue refunds on the date the Supreme Court rules the rates were illegal, rather than all the back to the approval of the rate case. Additionally, PUCO will have remedy within 30 days.
- Exempts mercantile customer self-power systems from being classified as a public utility, electric utility, or electric service company.
- Mercantile customer self-power system definition change to must be directly connected.
- Repeals the OVEC rider immediately upon the bill’s effective date.
- Reinstates the audit process for the Legacy Generation Rider (LGR), allowing PUCO to complete its review.
- Clarifies that rate case shot clocks will start with the next case an EDU files to eliminate potential confusion with current on-going rate cases.
- Establishes Multi-Year Rate Plans (MYRP) at the PUCO where utilities can propose changes to base rates for up to three consecutive 12-month periods with an annual true-up process to actual all utility forecasted test years.
- Requires utilities to come into the PUCO for a rate case every 3 years.
- Establishes new shot clocks on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).
 - PUCO must determine whether an application for an increase is complete not more than 45 days after the application is filed.
 - Requires a **360-day** shot clock for rate cases once an application is filed.
 - Requires the staff report to be complete by 180 days.

- Exempts any new discovery after 215 days.
 - If the rate case is not complete by 275 days, a temporary rate goes into effect based on the staff report's midpoint or lesser recommendation, subject to refund & reconciliation.
- Eliminates cash payments on a matter pending before the PUCO except for cash payments that are for the implementation of low-income weatherization programs.
- Repeals the Electric Security Plans (ESPs) statute but allows them to extend through the final standard service offer auction approved by the PUCO.
- Relocates the interruption rate provision that was originally in the ESP statute to the rate case statute.
- Allows PUCO to approve non-discriminatory economic development, demand response, and transmission programs during a rate case. This ensures the availability of these programs to all mercantile and energy-intensive customers on a non-discriminatory basis.
- Requires all cases at OPSB to be completed within 150 days after an application is deemed complete.
- Solar Generation Fund - pay the projects their expected revenue but at a discount for "net present value" of the money and the remaining amount transfers to the School Energy Performance Contracting Loan Fund custodial fund which is to be administered by Ohio Facilities Commission (OFCC). Allows the OFCC to issue a loan from the Fund to a board of education of a city, exempted village, local, or joint vocational school district that applies for a loan to pay all or part of an installment contract for the purchase and installation of energy conservation measures or shared-saving contract for energy saving measures if various other requirements are met.
- Prohibits a person from entering into a settlement to abandon. Close or shut down a base load electric generating facility or a generating plant owned or operated by a public utility
- Allows an electric distribution utility to supply behind the meter electric generation service if the behind the meter electric generation facilities the EDU intends to use were in operation or filed prior to the bill's effective date, subject to cost recovery, contract inducement prohibitions, and PUCO audit requirement.
- Requires OPSB to adopt rules for the accelerated review of a major utility facilities located on (1) property under a lease with a term of 25 years or more, (2) property owner by the applicant, (3) an easement or right-of-way, or (4) a combination thereof, if no further consent for the construction on the easement or right-of-way is required by any person or entity besides the OPSB. Requires OPSB to render a decision on such an application not later than 60 days after the receipt of the application.
 - Accelerated review if no further consent needed
- Requires an electric distribution utility's (EDU) standard service offer (SSO) to be a market-rate offer (MRO).
- Prohibits EDUs from bidding into the wholesale market with assets that were approved for distribution use and paid for by distribution customers.
- Increases bonding requirements for Competitive Retail Electric Service (CRES) and Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service (CRNGS) and modifies the notice requirements.

- Requires any public utility that proposes a test period under current law (rather than only NGC, water-works, or sewage disposal system company in current law) to provide adjustment date to PUCO not later than 90 days after the data becomes known, and directs the utility to submit proposed reconciliation adjustments to PUCO for refunds after PUCO issues a final order on the adjustment
- Prohibits electric utilities, except as the CRES law provides in the standard service offer law from providing CRES if it was deemed competitive or otherwise legally classified as competitive prior to the bill's effective date.
- Extends existing consumer protection in CRES law, and the rules adopted pursuant to that allow, to allow commercial customers and to all other customers as set forth in rules.
- Fixed-to-variable rate conversion notices: identifying new rate requires each of the two notices to identify the rate to be charged upon the contract's conversion to a variable rate.
- Fixed-to variable rate conversion notices: price-to-compare notice includes a statement explaining that appearing on each customer's bill is a price-to-compare notice that lists the EDU's SSO price.
- Fixed-to-variable rate conversion notices: timing of delivery requires the second of the two notices sent not earlier than 45 days, and not later than 15 days, prior to the expiration of the fixed rate.
- Provides for a mercantile customer's expedited return to an EDU's SSO based on a certified requires from a CRES supplier under a service agreement voluntarily entered into by a mercantile customer and requires PUCO to adopt rules governing the process.
- Authorizes an EDU to create necessary regulatory assets or liabilities for the resolution of any outstanding under-collection or over-collection of funds under PUCO-authorized riders that will cease after the termination of the EDU's ESP and provides for their resolution in the first distribution rate case after that termination.
- Clarification language regarding the Certified Territories Act.
- Requires EDUs to publish capacity maps of their systems on their website. With this data, the PUCO must hold annual stakeholder meetings on the maps design, accuracy, and usability. Furthermore, PUCO must publish an annual statewide reliability report on the trends and recommend grid modernization measures.
- Requires EDUs to create a heat map that must include certain information, excluding critical electric infrastructure, and publish the map on the entity's website.
- Establishes Grid Enhancing Technology (GETs) data gathering to explore the implementation of this technology in Ohio.