As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

134th General Assembly

Regular Session 2021-2022

Sub. S. B. No. 52

Senators Reineke, McColley

Cosponsors: Senators Lang, Rulli, Schaffer, Cirino, Brenner, Schuring

A BILL

То	amend sections 4906.01, 4906.02, and 4906.10 and	1
	to enact sections 303.57, 303.58, 303.59,	2
	303.60, 303.61, 303.62, 303.63, 4906.021,	3
	4906.101, 4906.102, 4906.103, 4906.30, and	4
	4906.31 of the Revised Code to permit a board of	5
	county commissioners to designate energy	6
	development districts and to permit a board of	7
	township trustees or a board of county	8
	commissioners to prevent power siting board	9
	certification of certain wind and solar	1(
	facilities.	11

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4906.01, 4906.02, and 4906.10 be	12
amended and sections 303.57, 303.58, 303.59, 303.60, 303.61,	13
303.62, 303.63, 4906.021, 4906.101, 4906.102, 4906.103, 4906.30,	14
and 4906.31 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	15
Sec. 303.57. As used in this section and sections 303.58	16
to 303.63 of the Revised Code:	17
(A) "Economically significant wind farm" has the same_	18

Sub. S. B. No. 52

Sub. S. B. No. 52 As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee	
accompanying texts and maps shall be filed with the office of	46
the county recorder of the county.	47
Sec. 303.60. A resolution designating an energy	48
development district, if adopted by the board of county	49
commissioners, becomes effective thirty days after the date of	50
its adoption, unless, within thirty days after the adoption,	51
there is presented to the board of county commissioners a	52
petition, signed by a number of registered electors residing in	53
the county equal to not less than eight per cent of the total	54
vote cast for all candidates for governor in that county at the	55
most recent general election at which a governor was elected,	56
requesting the board of county commissioners to submit the	57
resolution to the electors of that county for approval or	58
rejection at a special election to be held on the day of the	59
next primary or general election that occurs at least one	60
hundred twenty days after the petition is filed. Each part	61
petition shall contain the number and the full and correct	62
title, if any, of the resolution, motion, or application,	63
furnishing the name by which the resolution is known and a brief	64
summary of its contents. In addition to meeting the requirements	65
of this section, each petition shall be governed by the rules	66
specified in section 3501.38 of the Revised Code.	67
The form of a petition calling for a referendum on the	68
designation of an energy development district and the statement	69
of the circulator shall be substantially as follows:	70
"PETITION FOR REFERENDUM ON THE DESIGNATION OF AN ENERGY	71
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT	72
(if the proposal is identified by a particular name or	73
number, or both, these should be inserted here)	74

A proposal to designate an energy development district of	75
the unincorporated area of county, Ohio, adopted	76
(date) (followed by brief summary of the resolution).	77
To the board of county commissioners of county,_	78
Ohio:	79
We, the undersigned, being electors residing in	80
county, equal to not less than eight per cent of the	81
total vote cast for all candidates for governor in the county at	82
the preceding general election at which a governor was elected,	83
request the board of county commissioners to submit this	84
designation of an energy development district to the electors of	85
county, for approval or rejection at a special	86
election to be held on the day of the primary or general	87
election to be held on (date), pursuant to section	88
303.59 of the Revised Code.	89
Signature	90
Residence address	91
Date of signing	92
STATEMENT OF CIRCULATOR	93
I, (name of circulator), declare under penalty	94
of election falsification that I reside at the address appearing	95
below my signature; that I am the circulator of the foregoing	96
part petition containing (number) signatures; that I	97
have witnessed the affixing of every signature; that all signers	98
were to the best of my knowledge and belief qualified to sign;	99
and that every signature is to the best of my knowledge and	100
belief the signature of the person whose signature it purports	101
to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section	102
3501.382 of the Revised Code.	103

(Signature of circulator)	104
(Circulator's residence address)	105
WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A	106
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE."	107
The petition shall be filed with the board of county	108
commissioners. Within two weeks after receiving a petition filed	109
under this section, the board of county commissioners shall	110
certify the petition to the board of elections. A petition filed	111
under this section shall be certified to the board of elections	112
not less than ninety days prior to the election at which the	113
question is to be voted upon.	114
The board of elections shall determine the sufficiency and	115
validity of each petition certified to it by a board of county	116
commissioners under this section. If the board of elections	117
determines that a petition is sufficient and valid, the question	118
shall be voted upon at a special election to be held on the day	119
of the next primary or general election that occurs at least one	120
hundred twenty days after the date the petition is filed with	121
the board of county commissioners, regardless of whether any	122
election will be held to nominate or elect candidates on that	123
day.	124
No resolution designating a district for which such a	125
referendum vote has been requested shall be put into effect	126
unless a majority of the vote cast on the issue is in favor of	127
the resolution. Upon certification by the board of elections	128
that the resolution has been approved by the voters, it shall	129
<pre>take immediate effect.</pre>	130
Within five working days after the resolution's effective	131
date, the board of county commissioners shall file the text of	132

Sub. S. B. No. 52 As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee	Page 6
the resolution and maps of the energy development district in	133
the office of the county recorder and with the county or	134
regional planning commission, if one exists.	135
The failure to file any resolution, or any text and maps,	136
or duplicates of any of these documents, with the office of the	137
county recorder as required by this section does not invalidate	138
the resolution.	139
Sec. 303.61. (A) The board of county commissioners may	140
adopt a resolution prohibiting the construction of any or all of	141
<pre>the following:</pre>	142
(1) Economically significant wind farm;	143
(2) Large wind farm;	144
(3) Large solar facility.	145
(B) If a resolution described in division (A) of this	146
section is adopted, no person shall file, and the power siting	147
board shall not accept, an application for a certificate, or an	148
amendment to an existing certificate, to construct, operate, or	149
maintain a utility facility prohibited by the resolution.	150
Sec. 303.62. (A) At least ninety days, but not more than	151
nine months, prior to applying for a certificate from the power	152
siting board, or an amendment to an existing certificate, for a	153
utility facility, to be located in whole or in part in the	154
unincorporated area of a county, the person intending to apply	155
shall hold a public meeting in the county where the utility	156
facility is to be located.	157
(B) The applicant shall provide written notice of the	158
public meeting to the board of county commissioners of the	159
county, as well as the boards of trustees of every township in	160

Sub. S. B. No. 52 As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee	Page 7
which the utility facility is to be located. Notice shall be	161
provided at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.	162
(C) At the public meeting, the applicant shall provide the	163
<pre>following information:</pre>	164
(1) The person intending to apply for a certificate shall	165
provide the following information to the board of county	166
<pre>commissioners:</pre>	167
(a) Whether the utility facility will be:	168
(i) A large wind farm;	169
(ii) An economically significant wind farm; or	170
(iii) A large solar facility.	171
(b) The maximum nameplate capacity of the utility	172
<pre>facility;</pre>	173
(c) A map of the proposed geographic boundaries of the	174
project within that county.	175
(2) The person intending to apply for an amendment that	176
makes any change or modification to an existing certificate	177
shall comply with the requirements of this section when	178
providing information regarding that change or modification to	179
the board of county commissioners.	180
(3) All of the information described in divisions (C)(1)	181
and (2) of this section shall be submitted to the board of	182
county commissioners in written form.	183
Sec. 303.63. (A) Not later than ninety days after the	184
public meeting described in section 303.62 of the Revised Code	185
regarding an application for a certificate, or an amendment to	186
an existing certificate, for a utility facility, the board of	187

As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee	Page 9
hundred twenty-five pounds per square inch.	216
(2) "Major utility facility" does not include any of the	217
following:	218
(a) Gas transmission lines over which an agency of the	219
United States has exclusive jurisdiction;	220
(b) Any solid waste facilities as defined in section	221
6123.01 of the Revised Code;	222
(c) Electric distributing lines and associated facilities	223
as defined by the power siting board;	224
(d) Any manufacturing facility that creates byproducts	225
that may be used in the generation of electricity as defined by	226
the power siting board;	227
(e) Gathering lines, gas gathering pipelines, and	228
processing plant gas stub pipelines as those terms are defined	229
in section 4905.90 of the Revised Code and associated	230
facilities;	231
(f) Any gas processing plant as defined in section 4905.90	232
of the Revised Code;	233
(g) Natural gas liquids finished product pipelines;	234
(h) Pipelines from a gas processing plant as defined in	235
section 4905.90 of the Revised Code to a natural gas liquids	236
fractionation plant, including a raw natural gas liquids	237
pipeline, or to an interstate or intrastate gas pipeline;	238
(i) Any natural gas liquids fractionation plant;	239
(j) A production operation as defined in section 1509.01	240
of the Revised Code, including all pipelines upstream of any	241
gathering lines;	242

(k) Any compressor stations used by the following:	243
(i) A gathering line, a gas gathering pipeline, a	244
processing plant gas stub pipeline, or a gas processing plant as	245
those terms are defined in section 4905.90 of the Revised Code;	246
(ii) A natural gas liquids finished product pipeline, a	247
natural gas liquids fractionation plant, or any pipeline	248
upstream of a natural gas liquids fractionation plant; or	249
(iii) A production operation as defined in section 1509.01	250
of the Revised Code.	251
(C) "Commence to construct" means any clearing of land,	252
excavation, or other action that would adversely affect the	253
natural environment of the site or route of a major utility	254
facility, but does not include surveying changes needed for	255
temporary use of sites or routes for nonutility purposes, or	256
uses in securing geological data, including necessary borings to	257
ascertain foundation conditions.	258
(D) "Certificate" means a certificate of environmental	259
compatibility and public need issued by the power siting board	260
under section 4906.10 of the Revised Code or a construction	261
certificate issued by the board under rules adopted under	262
division (E) or (F) of section 4906.03 of the Revised Code.	263
(E) "Gas" means natural gas, flammable gas, or gas that is	264
toxic or corrosive.	265
(F) "Natural gas liquids finished product pipeline" means	266
a pipeline that carries finished product natural gas liquids to	267
the inlet of an interstate or intrastate finished product	268
natural gas liquid transmission pipeline, rail loading facility,	269
or other petrochemical or refinery facility.	270

Sub. S. B. No. 52

As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

public utilities commission the power siting board, composed of	300
the chairmanchairperson of the public utilities commission, the	301
director of environmental protection, the director of health,	302
the director of development, the director of natural resources,	303
the director of agriculture, and a representative of the public	304
who shall be an engineer and shall be appointed by the governor,	305
from a list of three nominees submitted to the governor by the	306
office of the consumers' counsel, with the advice and consent of	307
the senate and shall serve for a term of four years. The	308
chairmanchairperson of the public utilities commission shall be	309
chairmanchairperson of the board and its chief executive	310
officer. The chairmanchairperson shall designate one of the	311
voting members of the board to act as vice-chairmanvice-	312
<pre>chairperson who shall possess during the absence or disability</pre>	313
of the chairmanchairperson all of the powers of the	314
chairmanchairperson. All hearings, studies, and consideration of	315
applications for certificates shall be conducted by the board or	316
representatives of its members.	317

In addition, the board shall include four legislative 318 members who may participate fully in all the board's 319 deliberations and activities except that they shall serve as 320 nonvoting members. The speaker of the house of representatives 321 shall appoint one legislative member, and the president of the 322 senate and minority leader of each house shall each appoint one 323 legislative member. Each such legislative leader shall designate 324 an alternate to attend meetings of the board when the regular 325 legislative member he appointed by the legislative leader is 326 unable to attend. Each legislative member and alternate shall 327 serve for the duration of the elected term that heter 328 <u>legislative member</u> is serving at the time of his-appointment. A 329 quorum of the board is a majority of its voting members. 330

360

The representative of the public and, notwithstanding	331
section 101.26 of the Revised Code, legislative members of the	332
board or their designated alternates, when engaged in their	333
duties as members of the board, shall be paid at the per diem	334
rate of step 1, pay range 32, under schedule B of section 124.15	335
of the Revised Code and shall be reimbursed for the actual and	336
necessary expenses they incur in the discharge of their official	337
duties.	338
(2) In all cases involving an application for a	339
certificate or an amendment to an existing certificate for a	340
utility facility, as defined in section 303.57 of the Revised	341
Code, the board shall include two ad hoc members, as described	342
in section 4906.021 of the Revised Code.	343
(B) The chairman chairperson shall keep a complete record	344
of all proceedings of the board, issue all necessary process,	345
writs, warrants, and notices, keep all books, maps, documents,	346
and papers ordered filed by the board, conduct investigations	347
pursuant to section 4906.07 of the Revised Code, and perform	348
such other duties as the board may prescribe.	349
(C) The <u>chairmanchairperson</u> of the public utilities	350
commission may assign or transfer duties among the commission's	351
staff. However, the board's authority to grant certificates	352
under section 4906.10 of the Revised Code shall not be exercised	353
by any officer, employee, or body other than the board itself.	354
(D) The chairman chairperson may call to his the	355
<pre>chairperson's assistance, temporarily, any employee of the</pre>	356
environmental protection agency, the department of natural	357
resources, the department of agriculture, the department of	358
health, or the department of development, for the purpose of	359

making studies, conducting hearings, investigating applications,

As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee	
or preparing any report required or authorized under this	361
chapter. Such employees shall not receive any additional	362
compensation over that which they receive from the agency by	363
which they are employed, but they shall be reimbursed for their	364
actual and necessary expenses incurred while working under the	365
direction of the chairmanchairperson. All contracts for special	366
services are subject to the approval of the chairmanchairperson.	367
services are subject to the approval of the enarrman <u>chariperson</u> .	307
(E) The board's offices shall be located in those of the	368
public utilities commission.	369
Sec. 4906.021. (A) For the purposes of this section,	370
"immediate family member" means a person's:	371
(1) Spouse;	372
(2) Brother or sister of the whole, or of the half, blood,	373
or by marriage;	374
(3) Children, including adopted children; and	375
(4) Parents.	376
(B) Whenever an application is made to the power siting	377
board for a certificate or an amendment to an existing	378
certificate for a utility facility, as defined in section 303.57	379
of the Revised Code, the board shall include two ad hoc members	380
to represent the interests of the residents of the area in which	381
the utility facility is to be located.	382
(C)(1) The ad hoc members shall be:	383
(a) The chairperson of the board of township trustees of	384
the township where the utility facility is to be located or the	385
<pre>chairperson's designee;</pre>	386
(b) The president of the board of county commissioners of	387

Sub. S. B. No. 52

Page 14

Sec. 4906.10. (A) The power siting board shall render a

Page 15

415

Sub. S. B. No. 52

electric system economy and reliability;

444

decision upon the record either granting or denying the	416
application as filed, or granting it upon such terms,	417
conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or	418
maintenance of the major utility facility as the board considers	419
appropriate. The certificate shall be subject to sections	420
4906.101, 4906.102, and 4906.103 of the Revised Code and	421
conditioned upon the facility being in compliance with standards	422
and rules adopted under section 4561.32 and Chapters 3704.,	423
3734., and 6111. of the Revised Code. An applicant may withdraw	424
an application if the board grants a certificate on terms,	425
conditions, or modifications other than those proposed by the	426
applicant in the application.	427
The board shall not grant a certificate for the	428
construction, operation, and maintenance of a major utility	429
facility, either as proposed or as modified by the board, unless	430
it finds and determines all of the following:	431
(1) The basis of the need for the facility if the facility	432
is an electric transmission line or gas pipeline;	433
(2) The nature of the probable environmental impact;	434
(3) That the facility represents the minimum adverse	435
environmental impact, considering the state of available	436
technology and the nature and economics of the various	437
alternatives, and other pertinent considerations;	438
(4) In the case of an electric transmission line or	439
generating facility, that the facility is consistent with	440
regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid of the	441
electric systems serving this state and interconnected utility	442
systems and that the facility will serve the interests of	443

474

(5) That the facility will comply with Chapters 3704., 445 3734., and 6111. of the Revised Code and all rules and standards 446 adopted under those chapters and under section 4561.32 of the 447 Revised Code. In determining whether the facility will comply 448 with all rules and standards adopted under section 4561.32 of 449 the Revised Code, the board shall consult with the office of 450 aviation of the division of multi-modal planning and programs of 451 the department of transportation under section 4561.341 of the 452 Revised Code. 453 (6) That the facility will serve the public interest, 454 convenience, and necessity; 455 (7) In addition to the provisions contained in divisions 456 (A) (1) to (6) of this section and rules adopted under those 457 divisions, what its impact will be on the viability as 458 agricultural land of any land in an existing agricultural 459 district established under Chapter 929. of the Revised Code that 460 is located within the site and alternative site of the proposed 461 major utility facility. Rules adopted to evaluate impact under 462 division (A)(7) of this section shall not require the 463 compilation, creation, submission, or production of any 464 information, document, or other data pertaining to land not 465 located within the site and alternative site. 466 (8) That the facility incorporates maximum feasible water 467 conservation practices as determined by the board, considering 468 available technology and the nature and economics of the various 469 alternatives. 470 (B) If the board determines that the location of all or a 471 part of the proposed facility should be modified, it may 472 condition its certificate upon that modification, provided that 473

the municipal corporations and counties, and persons residing

Sub. S. B. No. 52

(1) A nameplate capacity exceeding that which was provided

Page 19

531

532

Sub. S. B. No. 52

following:

Sub. S. B. No. 52 As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee	Page 20
The respondency and contact Energy and reasons commission	
to that county's board of county commissioners under section	533
303.62 of the Revised Code;	534
(2) A geographic area that is not completely within the	535
boundaries provided to that county's board of county	536
commissioners under section 303.62 of the Revised Code or the	537
limited boundaries provided by that county's board of county	538
commissioners under Section 303.63 of the Revised Code;	539
(3) A type of generation that is different than that which	540
was provided to that county's board of county commissioners	541
under section 303.62 of the Revised Code.	542
Sec. 4906.31. (A) Not later than three days after an	543
application for a certificate, or amendment to an existing	544
certificate, for a utility facility is determined to be complete	545
and accepted by the power siting board and the filing fee is	546
paid by the applicant, the board shall provide a full and	547
complete copy of the application to each board of trustees and	548
each board of county commissioners of the townships or counties	549
in which the facility is to be located.	550
(B) The copy of the application may be provided in any of	551
the following formats:	552
(1) Paper copy;	553
(2) Electronic format;	554
(3) An electronic communication containing a link to the	555
application, if posted on the board's web site.	556
Section 2. That existing sections 4906.01, 4906.02, and	557
4906.10 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	558
Section 3. (A) The provisions of this bill shall apply to	559
any application that has been filed with, but has not been	560

Sub. S. B. No. 52 As Reported by the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee	Page 21
determined to be complete and accepted by, the power siting	561
board as of the effective date of S.B. 52 of the 134th general	562
assembly.	563
(B) Any application not determined to be complete and	564
accepted by the power siting board prior to the effective date	565
of this section shall be subject to review by the board of	566
county commissioners of the county in which the utility facility	567
is to be located. The board of county commissioners shall have	568
ninety days after the bill's effective date to review the	569
application and to adopt such resolution as set forth in section	570
303.63 of the Revised Code.	571