



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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*Introduced by: Hamilton, GiaQuinta, Chyung, Bartlett,  
DeLaney, Macer, Beck, Jackson, Fleming, Errington, Dvorak,  
Forestal, Campbell, Hatfield, Deal, Pfaff, Pryor, Goodin, Boy,  
Pierce, Klinker, Aylesworth*

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1           A HOUSE RESOLUTION concerning the protection and  
2           conservation of Indiana's natural heritage.

3           *Whereas, The state of Indiana endeavors to be a good*  
4           *steward of state and local natural resources;*

5           *Whereas, Scientific evidence from thousands of studies,*  
6           *including those conducted by Indiana's own universities,*  
7           *demonstrates the reality of climate change;*

8           *Whereas, All Hoosiers should have the opportunity to live*  
9           *healthy and financially secure lives today, as well as in coming*  
10          *decades;*

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1       *Whereas, The Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment*  
2       *(INCCIA) led by Purdue University has documented current*  
3       *and projected changes to Indiana's climate;*

4       *Whereas, Temperatures are projected to rise as much as 5 to*  
5       *6 degrees Fahrenheit by the midcentury with the number of*  
6       *extremely hot days rising significantly statewide, and the same*  
7       *study found an overall potential for significantly more warming*  
8       *of temperatures by the century's end;*

9       *Whereas, The study also found that the average annual*  
10       *precipitation has increased by 5.6 inches since 1895, with more*  
11       *heavy downpours, indicating that winters and springs are likely*  
12       *to be much wetter by the midcentury leading to greater chances*  
13       *of floods;*

14       *Whereas, The impacts of climate change on Indiana's*  
15       *communities, businesses and infrastructure are well*  
16       *documented in the INCCIA, including projected impacts by*  
17       *2050 such as: more frequent heat stress days and a doubling of*  
18       *water deficits reducing corn yields, for current varieties, by 16*  
19       *to 20 percent; livestock productivity and fertility will decline*  
20       *as heat stress events more than double; growing seasons for*  
21       *allergens, like ragweed, will increase by four weeks; the*  
22       *number of days above 95 degrees Fahrenheit will increase,*  
23       *degrading air quality and triggering asthma attacks and heart*  
24       *attacks, thereby straining infrastructure; warmer and wetter*  
25       *springs will increase mosquito populations, increasing the risk*  
26       *of exposure to diseases like malaria and Zika; and warmer*  
27       *winters will reduce days available to harvest wood without*  
28       *damaging forest soils;*

29       *Whereas, The impacts indicated by the INCCIA pose*  
30       *significant threats to Indiana farmers, who would be*  
31       *particularly impacted by crop failures, disruptions in supply*  
32       *chains, and a reduction in agricultural yields due to rising*  
33       *temperatures, drought, flooding and extreme heat;*

34       *Whereas, These impacts also pose significant health and*  
35       *economic risks to Indiana citizens, including waterborne*  
36       *disease outbreaks, compromised drinking water, increases in*  
37       *disease spreading organisms, exposure to air pollution, and the*



1 *costs associated with recovering from floods, among other*  
 2 *issues;*

3 *Whereas, Indiana is well positioned to take advantage of its*  
 4 *technology, research, and development sectors, along with its*  
 5 *university resources and skilled workforce, to promote*  
 6 *renewable energy technology solutions and to foster*  
 7 *innovations in the agricultural sector that grow the state's*  
 8 *economy; and*

9 *Whereas, Measures that can help the state of Indiana*  
 10 *become more climate resilient are available, feasible, cost*  
 11 *effective, and often have immediate community and economic*  
 12 *benefits such as job creation, lower energy costs, less air*  
 13 *pollution and improved quality of life: Therefore,*

14 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
 15 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

16 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
 17 urges the legislative council to assign to an appropriate interim  
 18 study committee the topic of climate impacts referenced in  
 19 reports such as the Indiana Climate Change Impacts  
 20 Assessment led by Purdue University to recommend public  
 21 policy action for the state of Indiana.

22 SECTION 2. That the legislative council is urged to create  
 23 a new task force for the purpose of studying climate change and  
 24 mitigation measures. This task force may consist of the  
 25 following thirteen (13) members:

- 26 (1) Four (4) members of the senate, appointed as follows:  
 27 (A) Two (2) members appointed by the president pro  
 28 tempore, one (1) of whom shall serve as co-chair of the  
 29 task force.  
 30 (B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader.  
 31 (2) Four (4) members of the house of representatives,  
 32 appointed as follows:  
 33 (A) Two (2) members appointed by the speaker,  
 34 (B) Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader,  
 35 one (1) of whom shall serve as co-chair of the task  
 36 force.  
 37 (3) Two (2) members who have broad experience in  
 38 electric utility policy and who are appointed by the



1 governor, at least one (1) of whom represents utility  
2 ratepayers.

3 (4) One (1) member from Purdue's Climate Research  
4 Center appointed by the governor.

5 (5) One (1) member from Indiana University's  
6 Environmental Resiliency Institute appointed by the  
7 governor.

8 (6) One (1) member who has expertise in renewable energy  
9 technology and deployment appointed by the governor.

10 SECTION 3. That the interim study committee or task force  
11 assigned the topic of climate change and mitigation measures  
12 shall prepare a report by December 1, 2020, including  
13 recommendations in the following areas: the development of  
14 renewable energy targets; the identification of adaptation  
15 measures; additional areas of study to address the projected  
16 impacts on Indiana's agricultural sector; opportunities to grow  
17 Indiana's clean energy manufacturing sector, including the  
18 manufacture of electric vehicle components, as well as wind  
19 turbine and solar panel components; a plan for decreasing the  
20 greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles owned and  
21 operated in Indiana, including increasing the number of  
22 registered, zero emission vehicles significantly; the  
23 development of policies to increase waste reduction, reuse,  
24 composting and recycling activities across the state; and  
25 policies to encourage public-private partnerships in developing,  
26 financing, and implementing climate resilient infrastructure  
27 investments.

28 SECTION 4. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
29 commits to developing and passing legislation to enact  
30 recommendations developed by the study committee during the  
31 session following the delivery of the committee's report.

32 SECTION 5. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
33 commits to integrate science based assessments of the impacts  
34 of climate change into its consideration of legislative proposals  
35 in the future.

36 SECTION 6. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
37 commits to developing and passing legislation to enact  
38 recommendations developed by the study committee during the  
39 session following the delivery of the committee's report.

40 SECTION 7. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
41 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the  
42 office of State Representative Carey Hamilton for distribution.

