

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 8, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Majority of the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy to which was referred HB 1506-FN,

AN ACT establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. John Lewicke

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Science, Technology and Energy
Bill Number:	HB 1506-FN
Title:	establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.
Date:	February 8, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill seeks to set up a “green bank” revolving fund to finance green energy projects. It would duplicate programs and resources that are already in place to finance renewable energy. Those existing programs include both government programs and commercial finance. It would make the state the "investor of last resort" for installations that have been refused by government and commercial investors as not financially viable. The bill would impose mandates and costs on the Department of Energy without any provision for funding those costs. As introduced, it also would explicitly discriminate based on race, which clearly violates constitutional protections.

Vote 12-9.

Rep. John Lewicke
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Science, Technology and Energy

HB 1506-FN, establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.
MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. John Lewicke for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill seeks to set up a “green bank” revolving fund to finance green energy projects. It would duplicate programs and resources that are already in place to finance renewable energy. Those existing programs include both government programs and commercial finance. It would make the state the "investor of last resort" for installations that have been refused by government and commercial investors as not financially viable. The bill would impose mandates and costs on the Department of Energy without any provision for funding those costs. As introduced, it also would explicitly discriminate based on race, which clearly violates constitutional protections. **Vote 12-9.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 8, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Minority of the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy to which was referred HB 1506-FN,

AN ACT establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Rebecca McWilliams

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

MINORITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Science, Technology and Energy
Bill Number:	HB 1506-FN
Title:	establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.
Date:	February 8, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill creates the structure for a state Revolving Clean Energy Accelerator Fund, that uses no State funds, but rather would be a "bucket" set up to receive money through both private capital and dedicated Federal ARPA funds of approximately \$60M/year for five years, administered by the NH Department of Energy. The intention of the Fund is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing financial investments in low- and zero-emissions technologies to catalyze a rapid transition to a clean energy economy without raising energy costs to end users. The Fund would provide low-interest loans to schools, towns, and nonprofits seeking to purchase zero emissions vehicle fleets, among other carbon-reduction-focused energy projects. The Fund would provide secure oversight through the Department of Energy as an alternative to private or nonprofit management, which do not have the same level of controls and audits. This bill is not redundant with any existing departments or programs currently in effect.

Rep. Rebecca McWilliams
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Science, Technology and Energy

HB 1506-FN, establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.
OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Rebecca McWilliams for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill creates the structure for a state Revolving Clean Energy Accelerator Fund, that uses no State funds, but rather would be a "bucket" set up to receive money through both private capital and dedicated Federal ARPA funds of approximately \$60M/year for five years, administered by the NH Department of Energy. The intention of the Fund is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing financial investments in low- and zero-emissions technologies to catalyze a rapid transition to a clean energy economy without raising energy costs to end users. The Fund would provide low-interest loans to schools, towns, and nonprofits seeking to purchase zero emissions vehicle fleets, among other carbon-reduction-focused energy projects. The Fund would provide secure oversight through the Department of Energy as an alternative to private or nonprofit management, which do not have the same level of controls and audits. This bill is not redundant with any existing departments or programs currently in effect.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1506-FN

BILL TITLE: establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.

DATE: February 7, 2022

LOB ROOM: 306-308

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Lewicke

Seconded by Rep. Merner

Vote: 12-9

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Fred Plett, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Science, Technology and Energy

Bill #: HB1506-FN Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: February 7, 2022

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Vose, Michael Chairman	x		
Thomas, Douglas W. Vice Chairman	x		
Harrington, Michael D. – Rep. Johnson, Dawn	x		
Notter, Jeanine M.	x		
Merner, Troy E.	x		
Plett, Fred R. Clerk	x		
Berezhny, Lex	x		
Bernardy, JD	x		
Cambrils, Jose E.	x		
Ploszaj, Tom	x		
White, Nick D.	x		
Lewicki, John	x		
Somssich, Peter F.		x	
Cali-Pitts, Jacqueline A.		x	
Mann, John E.		x	
Oxenham, Lee Walker		x	
Vincent, Kenneth S.			a
McGhee, Kat		x	
McWilliams, Rebecca J.		x	
Chretien, Jacqueline H.		x	
Pimentel, Roderick L.		x	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1506-FN

BILL TITLE: establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.

DATE: January 11, 2022

LOB ROOM: 306/308 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 1:00pm

Time Adjourned: 1:35pm

Committee Members: Reps. Vose, Thomas, Plett, Harrington, Notter, Merner, Berezhny, Bernardy, Cambrils, Ploszaj, White, Somssich, Cali-Pitts, Mann, Oxenham, Lewicke, Vincent, McGhee, McWilliams, Chretien, Pimentel and Parshall

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. McWilliams

Rep. Walz

Rep. Chretien

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. McWilliams

- Meant to be enabling bill to create a revolving fund.
- Loaning, collecting interest on loans - alternative fuel vehicles, Rev, hybrids.
- Funded c?? Federal government funds, private funds - no state money.
- Forty percent to go to vulnerable low income communities.
- Plate - color? page 3, marginalized in past

Rep. Harrington

- What is community of color? Unconstitutional.

Rep. Cali-Pitts

- Clarification on fund expenditures. Give at only a % of fund each year
- Need to add more funds for \$100,000 may be small amount.

Rep. Somssich

- Micro loans effective around world, similar here? Answer: Yes.

***Josie Gage**

- Favor of bill

Rep. Harrington

- Because NH most dependent on inside pricing??? etc.
- Could you provide proof and or examples? Yes,

Griffin Roberge - NH Dept. of Energy

- Reports neutral on bill.
- Technical concerns - Fund raises? federal \$, etc.
- Katrina? signed into law to date,
- Dept. does not monitor loan funds, could not be supported by existing State monitoring, etc. could not be raised by utility assessments.
- Would need valuable population data. P.U 131. Dept. can only pay staff from funds deposited otherwise can't hire without federal language allowing.

- Hor????? whether - allowed to enter into agreements. Would it be better in Business Finance Authority? Answer: Subject to sponsor

Rep. Harrington

- Cost effective or economical in bill?
- Would need to look closer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Fred Plett

House Remote Testify

Science, Technology and Energy Committee Testify List for Bill HB1506 on 2022-01-11

Support: 60 Oppose: 4 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Oxenham, Evan	Plainfield, NH evan.oxenham@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 6:55 PM
Wightman, Nancy	Cornish, NH Nwlaststraw@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 11:51 AM
Burns, Scott	Franklin, NH, NH scottaburns.2020@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 12:36 PM
Damon, Claudia	Concord, NH cordsdamon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/9/2022 11:54 PM
Saum, Judith	Rumney, NH judithsaum@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 7:05 AM
Jones, Andrew	Pembroke, NH arj11718@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 9:49 AM
Devore, Gary	Pembroke, NH torin_asheron@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 9:49 AM
Rettew, Annie	Concord, NH abrettew@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 9:51 AM
Callaway, Barbara	Hanover, NH bcallaway65@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 12:26 PM
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/10/2022 12:52 PM
Podlipny, Ann	chester, ND apodlipny57@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 6:57 PM
Beck, Gerald	Holderness, NH bentrimone@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 8:20 PM
Davidson, Suellen	Hollis, NH suellendavidson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 8:50 PM

Davidson, Stuart	Hollis, NH studavidso@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 8:56 PM
Nelson, Beth	Derry, NH BethDavid@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:17 PM
Markus, Amy	Hancock, NH asmarkus@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:21 PM
Pérez, María	Milford, NH mariaeli63@gmail.com	An Elected Official	District 23	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:22 PM
Day, Jennifer	CONCORD, NH jenniferday1967@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 11:03 PM
Axelman, Elliot	Hooksett, NH alu.axelman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/10/2022 11:22 PM
Martin, Patricia A	Rindge, NH pmartin2894@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 11:51 PM
DAleo, Joseph	Hudson, NH daleo@weatherbell.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/11/2022 4:29 AM
Torpey, Jeanne	Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 5:46 AM
Willing, Maura	Concord, NH Maura.Willing@Comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 6:35 AM
Blais, Vanessa	Manchester, NH Bessblais@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 6:46 AM
Mangipudi, Latha	Nashua, NH Latha.mangipudi@leg.state.nh.gov	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 6:58 AM
Taylor, Susan	Plainfield, NH suectaylor158@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:04 AM
Balch, Former Rep. Chris	Wilton, NH chris1953balch@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:10 AM
Meuse, David	Portsmouth, NH David.Meuse@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Rockingham 29	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:14 AM
Bates, David	Warner, NH dbates3@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:33 AM
Taylor, David	Plainfield, NH dstaylor342@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:43 AM
Tanner, Sarah	Bow, NH sbrtanner@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:47 AM

Perry, Barbara	Epping, NH bperry603@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 7:59 AM
Smiley, Julie	Amherst, NH Jsmiley.nh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:00 AM
Dowling, Sharon	Hancock, NH shadowharp@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:11 AM
Aronson, Laura	Manchester, NH laura@mlans.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:12 AM
Nardino, Marie	Andover, NH mdnardino@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:20 AM
Murphy, Caitlin	Concord, NH violettefay@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:20 AM
Giles, Amanda	Barrington, NH amanda@shedonist.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:55 AM
Jakubowski, Dennis	Loudon, NH Dendeb146@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 9:11 AM
DeMio, Lisa	Hampstead, NH demiolisa@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 9:12 AM
Steel, Sandy	PLAINFIELD, NH selizabethsteel@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 9:23 AM
Steel, Laura	Plainfield, NH lfsteel@verizon.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 9:24 AM
Poor, Dan	CORNISH, NH dpoor45@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 9:29 AM
Klein Knight, Nicole	Manchester, NH Nicole.kleinknight@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Manchester	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 9:56 AM
Love, Rep.David	Derry, NH davidlove4rep@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Rockingham 6	Oppose	No	No	1/11/2022 10:02 AM
Kaufman, Judith	Cornish, NH jpk52@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 10:12 AM
Moulton, Candace	Manchester, NH Candaceleighm@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 10:15 AM
Reed, Barbara	North Swanzey, NH BDReed74@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 10:52 AM
QUISUMBING-KING, Cora	Dover, NH coraq@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 11:02 AM

King, Walter	Dover, NH genedocwk@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 11:37 AM
Shuel-Sargent, Pamela	Rindge, NH shueljls@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 11:54 AM
Duck, Elizabeth	Auburn, NH elizabethduck@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:13 PM
Moge, Michelle	Derry, NH michellemoge2009@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:18 PM
Moge, Dan	Derry, NH danmoge@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:19 PM
Horrigan, Timothy	Durham, NH timothy.horrigan@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Strafford 6	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:20 PM
ZAVGREN, JOHN	WILTON, NH john@zavgren.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:30 PM
Clendenning, Bruce	CONCORD, NH bruce.clendenning@tnc.org	A Lobbyist	The Nature Conservancy NH	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:41 PM
Raspiller, Cindy	Mont Vernon, NH raspicl@hitmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:49 PM
Brown, Howard	Mont Vernon, NH hobro39@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:50 PM
Kuemmerle, Nancy	Enfield, NH nkuemmerle@une.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 12:58 PM
Colby, Rose	Hampstead, NH pianoscape7@icloud.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:16 PM
Findley, Sally	Grantham, NH findley.se@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 1:36 PM
Allen, Laurene	Merrimack, NH Alaurene@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:38 PM
Dolkart, Vivian	Grantham, NH viviandolkart@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 10:30 PM

Committee Members:

My name is Joseph D'Aleo. I am a board member with Granite State Taxpayers, where our mission is to inform, educate and motivate ratepayers to take actions that are in their best interest and that of the Granite State. I am a lifelong environmentalist and conservationist. I worked with many colleagues to remediate the serious pollution problems in the 1970s. In the post war boom, we had problems with air pollution and we helped the EPA set standards for industry and automakers that resulted in the cleanest air in our lifetimes and in the world today. We moved to cleaner fossil fuels and used technology to ensure that the emissions from their use did not create atmospheric pollution. We surpassed all our goals. We worked to achieve energy independence and reduced (at least until 2021) energy costs for the United States (mostly non-RGGI states) to the lowest levels in the world. This has been a great benefit to homeowners and industry.

Granite State Taxpayers oppose HB1506

This bill creates a clean energy accelerator fund, administered by the department of energy, to finance goods and services producing low or zero greenhouse gas emissions and use other financial tools to mitigate climate change. Energy Efficiency programs already in place like RGGI have already greatly increased costs to ratepayers. The well-advertised RGGI rebates to the ratepayers are but a small fraction of the increased costs to the ratepayer. The RGGI states along with super green California pay the highest monthly electricity prices for the lower 48 states. In NH, electricity prices are 5th highest (55% above the lower 48 state average).

Where more aggressive and comprehensive programs have been employed, costs for energy have increased 3 to 5 fold. However wherever so-called renewable energy has proven unreliable with blackouts which can be deadly as we saw last February in Texas when snow and below zero cold shut down wind and solar energy that even oil rich Texas had become over reliant on. Over 100 deaths occurred there. Those most affected by this threat are the low income or retirees on fixed income who already pay over 40% of their income on energy. Many households in the countries that have gone boldly green are said to be in "energy poverty" (25% UK, 15% Germany). The elderly are said in winter to be forced to "choose between heating and eating". Extreme cold already kills 20 times more than heat according to a Lancet study of 74 million deaths in 13 countries. ISO here in the east has already warned if the cold in place linger more than a few days, rolling blackouts are likely.

HB1506 is proposed to be capitalized by funds from national clean energy and sustainability accelerators, federal grant funds or gifts. As of early November 2021, while there are discussions in Washington about providing such federal funding for clean energy and sustainability accelerators, nothing has been signed into law. The Department does not currently administer any loan programs directly and does not monitor local wages, and therefore these new duties could not be absorbed by existing staff, nor could the duties be paid for by utility assessment." If the program were to be launched on those terms but then funding was turned off, there would be pressure to fund it with money from ratepayer pockets. Government programs never die.

Granite State Taxpayers opposes HB1506 for the reasons stated above.

Joseph D'Aleo, Hudson NH

www.GraniteStateTaxpayers.org

Archived: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:40:58 AM
From: [Billie-Jean Greene](#)
Sent: Sunday, January 9, 2022 3:24:38 PM
To: [~House Science Technology and Energy](#)
Subject: HB1506, HB 1601, HB 1621
Importance: Normal

I also oppose all of these bills.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Billie-Jean Greene
Greenfield

Archived: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:40:58 AM
From: [Joe D'Aleo](#)
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:51:12 AM
To: [~House Science Technology and Energy](#)
Subject: Re: HB1506
Importance: Normal

Written Testimony for hb1602 and hb1621

On Tue, Jan 11, 2022 at 4:42 AM Joe D'Aleo <daleo@weatherbell.com> wrote:
| Comments for hearing

Archived: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:40:58 AM
From: [Patricia Martin](#)
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:58:42 AM
To: [~House Science Technology and Energy](#)
Subject: I support HB 1506FN
Importance: Normal

Dear Honorable Representatives,

In rejecting the Triennial Energy Efficiency plan, the Public Utilities Commission challenged energy efficiency proponents to find alternative funding streams other than ratepayer fees. HB 1506FN seems to answer that challenge and also provides a mechanism for distributing federal energy dollars and other grants as they become available.

Please vote HB 1506FN OTP.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Martin
17 Farrar Road
Rindge, NH 03461

Archived: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:40:58 AM
From: [Kit Lord](#)
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 8:21:20 AM
To: [~House Science Technology and Energy](#)
Subject: Support for 1506-FN, 1419-A,1601-FN, 1621-FN
Importance: Normal

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in support of these bills which will take NH in the right direction concerning energy usage efficiency.

Please vote YES on these.

HB 1506-FN - establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.

What a terrific idea to create this mechanism to draw in all kinds of funding.

HB1419-A-relative to establishing a New Hampshire civilian climate corps advisory commission.

Another great idea to bring in a wide group of citizens to guide the work.

HB1601-FN - relative to funding of the NHsaves program

It is crucial to solidify this very important program, so many consumers rely on it and it provides stability to many businesses doing the forward-thinking work.

HB1621 -FN - relative to reducing the rebates distributed by the energy efficiency fund.

I am in favor of not receiving rebates if the money can go toward furthering the goal of energy efficiencies across NH.

Sincerely,

Kit Lord
Northwood

HB 1506-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2805

12/11

HOUSE BILL ***1506-FN***

AN ACT establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.

SPONSORS: Rep. McWilliams, Merr. 27; Rep. Walz, Merr. 23; Rep. Chretien, Hills. 42

COMMITTEE: Science, Technology and Energy

ANALYSIS

This bill creates a clean energy accelerator fund, administered by the department of energy, to finance goods and services producing low or zero greenhouse gas emissions and use other financial tools to mitigate climate change.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Subparagraph; Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator Fund. Amend RSA 6:12,
2 I(b) by inserting after subparagraph 382 the following new subparagraph:

3 (383) Moneys deposited in the clean energy accelerator fund under RSA 12-P:16.

4 2 New Section; Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator Fund. Amend RSA 12-P by
5 inserting after section 15 the following new section:

6 12-P:16 Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator Fund.

7 I. The department shall administer the clean energy and sustainability accelerator fund
8 established under this section.

9 II. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have
10 the following meanings:

11 (a) "Alternative fuel vehicle project" means any project, technology, product, service,
12 function, or measure that supports the development or deployment of alternative fuels used for
13 electricity generation, alternative fuel vehicles, and related infrastructure, including infrastructure
14 for electric vehicle charging stations, and that does not include the combustion of fossil fuels.

15 (b) "Demand response project" means any project, technology, product, service, function,
16 or measure that changes the usage of electricity by retail customers from normal consumption
17 patterns in response to:

18 (1) Changes in the price of electricity over time; or

19 (2) Incentive payments designed to induce lower electricity use at times of high
20 market prices or when system reliability is jeopardized.

21 (c) "Electrification" means the installation, construction, or use of end-use electric
22 technology that replaces existing technology based on fossil fuel consumption.

23 (d) "Energy efficiency project" means any project, technology, product, service, function,
24 or measure that results in the reduction of energy use required to achieve the same level of service or
25 output obtained before the application of the project, technology, product, service, function, or
26 measure.

27 (e) "Fuel switching" means any project that replaces a heating system or industrial
28 process using fossil fuels with a system or process that uses a different non-fossil fuel and achieves
29 lower net greenhouse gas emissions.

HB 1506-FN - AS INTRODUCED
- Page 2 -

1 (f) "Greenhouse gas" means any chemical or physical substance that is emitted into the
2 air and that the department determines by rule may reasonably be anticipated to cause or contribute
3 to climate change, including, but not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide,
4 hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

5 (g) "Microgrid" means a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources
6 within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity in a larger
7 electrical grid and that can connect to and disconnect from the larger grid to operate in either grid-
8 connected or isolation mode.

9 (h) "Qualified projects" means the following kinds of technologies and activities that are
10 eligible for financing and investment from the fund:

11 (1) Renewable energy generation, including:

12 (A) Solar, wind, and geothermal projects;

13 (B) Projects using small-scale hydropower that produce 30 megawatts or less of
14 electricity as long as such a project provides 95 percent or greater efficiency for upstream and
15 downstream passage for diadromous fish species present downstream of the project;

16 (C) Projects using ocean and hydrokinetic power generation;

17 (D) Projects using fuel cells to store energy; and

18 (E) Projects that are biomass generators fueled by wood or wood waste, landfill
19 gas or anaerobic digestion of agricultural products, by-products, or wastes;

20 (2) Building energy efficiency, fuel switching, and electrification;

21 (3) Industrial decarbonization;

22 (4) Grid technology, such as storage to support clean energy distribution, including
23 microgrids and smart grid applications;

24 (5) Clean transportation, including battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric
25 vehicles, hydrogen vehicles, other zero-emissions fueled vehicles, related vehicle charging and
26 fueling infrastructure, and low-emissions mass public transit; and

27 (6) Any other key areas identified by the department as consistent with the mandate
28 of the fund as described in paragraph III.

29 (i) "Renewable energy generation" means electricity created by sources that are
30 continually replenished by nature, such as the sun, wind, and water.

31 (j) "Renewable energy project" means the development, construction, deployment,
32 alteration, or repair of any project, technology, product, service, function, or measure that generates
33 electric power from renewable energy.

34 (k) "System efficiency project" means the development, construction, deployment,
35 alteration or repair of any distributed generation system, energy storage system, smart grid
36 technology, advanced battery system, microgrid system, fuel cell system, or combined heat and
37 power systems.

1 (l) "Vulnerable communities" means:

2 (1) Low-income communities, defined as any geographical unit for which the United
3 States Census Bureau publishes sample data in which 30 percent or more of the population are
4 individuals with low income;

5 (2) Low-income households, defined as a household with annual income equal to, or
6 less than, the greater of:

7 (A) An amount equal to 80 percent of the median income of the area in which the
8 household is located, as reported by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development; or

9 (B) Two hundred percent of the federal poverty line; and

10 (3) Communities of color and tribal communities, which include any geographically
11 distinct area in which the population of color is higher than the average population of color of the
12 state.

13 III. The clean energy and sustainability accelerator fund is hereby established as a
14 dedicated, specialized finance program designed to drive private capital into market gaps for goods
15 and services producing low or zero greenhouse gas emissions and use finance tools to mitigate
16 climate change; that is funded by government, public, private, or charitable contributions; and that
17 invests in or finances projects alone or in conjunction with other investors.

18 IV. The fund shall help the state combat the causes and effects of climate change through
19 the rapid deployment of mature technologies and the commercialization and scaling of new
20 technologies by maximizing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the state for every dollar
21 deployed by the fund, including by:

22 (a) Providing financing support for investments in low-emissions and zero-emissions
23 technologies and processes in order to rapidly accelerate market penetration;

24 (b) Catalyzing and mobilizing private capital through public investment and supporting
25 a more robust marketplace for clean technologies, while minimizing competition with private
26 investment;

27 (c) Enabling communities affected by climate change to benefit from and afford projects
28 and investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

29 (d) Providing support for workers and communities affected by the transition to a low-
30 carbon economy; and

31 (e) Causing the rapid transition to a clean energy economy without raising energy costs
32 to end users and seeking to lower costs when possible.

33 V. The following provisions shall govern the department's finance and investment activities
34 of the fund:

35 (a) The department may provide finance and investment services, including but not
36 limited to:

1 (1) Originating, evaluating, underwriting, and closing financing and investment
2 transactions in qualified projects;

3 (2) Partnering with private capital providers and capital markets to attract
4 coinvestment from private banks, community development financial institutions, investors, and
5 others in order to drive new investment into underpenetrated markets to increase the efficiency of
6 private capital markets with respect to investing in greenhouse gas reduction projects and to
7 increase total investment from the fund;

8 (3) Managing the fund's portfolio of assets to ensure performance and monitor risk;

9 (4) Ensuring appropriate debt and risk mitigation products are offered; and

10 (5) Overseeing prudent, noncontrolling equity investments.

11 (b) The department may provide capital to qualified projects in the form of:

12 (1) Debt financing;

13 (2) Credit enhancements, including loan loss reserves and loan guarantees;

14 (3) Aggregation and warehousing;

15 (4) Equity capital; and

16 (5) Any other financial product approved by the department.

17 VI. The department shall explore the establishment of a program to provide low-interest and
18 zero interest loans, up to 30 years in length, to any school, municipal planning organization, or
19 nonprofit organization seeking financing for the acquisition of zero greenhouse gas emissions vehicle
20 fleets, or associated infrastructure, to support zero greenhouse gas emissions vehicle fleets.

21 VII. The following provisions shall govern the fund's project prioritization and requirements:

22 (a) While investing in projects that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, the department
23 shall maximize the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in this State for every dollar deployed by
24 the fund.

25 (b) The department shall ensure that 40 percent of investment activity from the fund is
26 directed to serve vulnerable communities.

27 (c) For any project exceeding \$100,000 in total costs that is financed in whole or in part
28 by the fund, the department shall ensure that, for those portions of the project that are funded by
29 the fund, any workers employed by contractors and subcontractors conducting construction work on
30 those portions are paid wages not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality.

31 VIII. The following provisions govern administration:

32 (a) The department may capitalize the fund with federal funds available from a national
33 clean energy and sustainability accelerator and may accept other federal funds as available.

34 (b) To sustain operations, the department shall manage revenue from financing fees,
35 interest, repaid loans, and other types of funding.

HB 1506-FN - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 5 -

1 (c) The department shall create a publicly available annual report that describes the
2 financial activities, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and private capital mobilization metrics of
3 the fund for the previous year.

4 (d) The department may accept and use philanthropic funds.

5 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1506-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing a revolving clean energy accelerator fund in the department of energy.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Funding Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator Fund			

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

METHODOLOGY:

This bill creates a clean energy accelerator fund, administered by the department of energy, to finance goods and services producing low or zero greenhouse gas emissions and use other financial tools to mitigate climate change.

The Department of Energy indicates these types of programs are commonly referred to as “Green Banks”. The Department would be charged with establishing a program to provide low or no interest loans to schools, municipal planning organizations, or nonprofits seeking financing to purchase zero emissions vehicles for their fleets and associated infrastructure. The Department is charged with ensuring that any workers employed by contractors and subcontractors conducting construction work for any portion of certain projects funded by the fund are paid wages no less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality. The fund would be capitalized by funds from national clean energy and sustainability accelerators, federal grant funds or gifts. As of early November 2021, while there are discussions in Washington about providing such federal funding for clean energy and sustainability accelerators, nothing has been signed into law. The Department does not currently administer any loan programs directly and does not monitor local wages, and therefore these new duties could not be absorbed by existing

staff, nor could the duties be paid for by utility assessment. There is no provision for general funding, so the program would have to be entirely self-funding in accordance with proposed RSA 12-P:16, VIII(b). In addition, the size of the fund would drive the number of staff needed to develop program(s), draft proposed rules, create forms, review applications, make awards, ensure compliance and reporting requirements are met, verify that greenhouse gas emissions reductions have been realized, and administer repayment of the loans.

It is assumed that any fiscal impact would occur after FY 2022.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Energy