

## H. 2881 An Act to promote energy diversity

### Bill Summary

This complex and substantial bill is intended to encourage the development of energy security, energy diversity and economic growth while facilitating the Commonwealth's clean energy goals. To that end, the bill amends provisions relative to the carbon dioxide cap and trade program by requiring that parcels of land on which electric generating plants previously were operated are to be designated as preferred sites for reuse as electric generation sites for all technologies; amends provisions relative to the renewable energy portfolio standard for retail electricity suppliers to establish where the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has reviewed and approved a project it will automatically be deemed to have satisfied the state environmental standards, except as limited by certain enumerated subsections, and establishes that once it has been determined that an existing facility meets the state environmental standards, that facility will be qualified as a Class II renewable energy generating source; includes hydropower energy within the definition of net metering facilities; requires all electricity distribution companies to conduct periodic joint solicitations for proposals from offshore wind energy developers to deliver an annual amount of electricity and to enter into commercially reasonable long-term contracts to facilitate the financing of offshore wind and energy generation; defines commercially reasonable; sets minimum MWh per annum standards; directs the DPU to adopt guidelines for a regional transmission solution, by January 1, 2017, for the purpose of allowing utility companies to submit proposals for the construction of competitively bid electricity transmission lines; specifies several areas that the guidelines must cover; authorizes utility companies to submit proposals to DPU for development of regional transmission solutions; Authorizes DPU to establish a tariff on additional gas pipeline construction and further directs the Department to solicit competitive bids for that construction; directs the selected entity to auction the pipeline capacity, the proceeds of which shall be directed to reimbursing ratepayers; and establishes a nine member Commission to study and make recommendations on the siting of energy facilities.