

SENATE BILL NO. 339—COMMITTEE ON ENERGY,
INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

MARCH 23, 2009

Referred to Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation

SUMMARY—Requires the Colorado River Commission of Nevada to conduct a study of the feasibility of the generation of electricity from hydrokinetic electric power below Hoover Dam. (BDR 58-1150)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets **[omitted material]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to energy; requiring the Colorado River Commission of Nevada to conduct a study of the feasibility of the generation of electricity from hydrokinetic electric power below Hoover Dam; requiring the Commission to apply for money from the Federal Government to conduct a demonstration program if the study indicates that such use of that hydrokinetic electric power is feasible; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law authorizes the Colorado River Commission of Nevada to sell
2 electricity to certain customers without being subject to the jurisdiction of the
3 Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. (NRS 704.787) This bill requires the
4 Colorado River Commission to conduct a study of the feasibility of the generation
5 of electricity from hydrokinetic electric power below Hoover Dam to meet the
6 existing and future requirements of: (1) any customer that the Colorado River
7 Commission was serving or had a contract to serve on July 16, 1997; and (2) the
8 Southern Nevada Water Authority and its member agencies. This bill additionally
9 requires the Colorado River Commission to apply for money from the Federal
10 Government to establish a demonstration program for the use of that hydrokinetic
11 electric power to generate electricity if the study indicates that such use of that
12 hydrokinetic electric power is feasible.



* S B 3 3 9 *

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 704.787 is hereby amended to read as follows:
704.787 1. The Colorado River Commission of Nevada may sell electricity and provide transmission service or distribution service, or both, only to meet the existing and future requirements of:

(a) Any customer that the Colorado River Commission of Nevada on July 16, 1997, was serving or had a contract to serve; and

(b) The Southern Nevada Water Authority and its member agencies for their water and wastewater operations,

without being subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.

2. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada shall establish a just and reasonable tariff for such electric distribution service to be provided by an electric utility that primarily serves densely populated counties to the Colorado River Commission of Nevada for its sale of electricity or electric distribution services, or both, to any customer that the Colorado River Commission of Nevada on July 16, 1997, was serving or had a contract to serve, and to the Southern Nevada Water Authority and its member agencies to meet the existing and future requirements for their water and wastewater operations.

3. An electric utility that primarily serves densely populated counties shall provide electric distribution service pursuant to the tariff required by subsection 2.

4. *The Colorado River Commission of Nevada shall:*

(a) Conduct a study of the feasibility of the generation of electricity from hydrokinetic electric power below Hoover Dam to meet any existing or future requirements described in subsection 1; and

(b) If the study indicates that such use of that hydrokinetic electric power is feasible, apply for money from the Federal Government to establish a demonstration program for the use of that hydrokinetic electric power to generate electricity.

5. As used in this section:

(a) "Electric utility that primarily serves densely populated counties" means an electric utility that, with regard to the provision of electric service, derives more of its annual gross operating revenue in this State from customers located in counties whose population is 400,000 or more than it does from customers located in counties whose population is less than 400,000.

(b) *"Hydrokinetic electric power" means energy generated from free-flowing water in rivers, streams and channels.*



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- 1 (c) “Southern Nevada Water Authority” has the meaning
- 2 ascribed to it in NRS 538.041.
- 3 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

