

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 524—ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS

MAY 26, 2023

Referred to Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions governing electric utilities. (BDR 58-985)

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; revising a definition relating to certain renewable energy facilities; revising provisions governing the submission of general rate applications; revising provisions governing the integrated resource plan submitted triennially by a utility; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law requires each electric utility to submit to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada every 3 years an integrated resource plan to increase the utility's supply of electricity or decrease the demands made on its system by its customers. Existing law provides that the integrated resource plan must include certain components, including, without limitation, a comparison of a diverse set of scenarios of the best combination of sources of supply to meet the demands or the best methods to reduce the demands. (NRS 704.741) **Section 2** of this bill sets forth certain declarations of the Legislature relating to the affordability, availability and reliability of the supply of electricity in this State. **Section 4** of this bill requires the integrated resource plan of an electric utility to include: (1) at least one scenario that provides for the construction or acquisition of energy resources through contract or ownership to be placed into service to close an open position utilizing dedicated energy resources in this State and dedicated energy resources delivered through firm transmission; and (2) for each scenario considered, certain information regarding each energy resource proposed and an evaluation of the impact the implementation of a scenario will have on certain matters. **Section 4** authorizes an electric utility to submit an integrated resource plan more frequently than once every 3 years. **Section 4** requires the Commission to adopt regulations governing the manner in which and circumstances under which an electric utility may file an amendment to its integrated resource plan. **Section 5** of this bill requires an electric utility to schedule a consumer session before filing an integrated resource plan or an amendment to such a plan. **Sections 6 and 7** of this bill make a conforming change to reflect changes in the numbering of subsections in **section 4**.



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**Section 1** of this bill revises the definition of “facility for the storage of energy from renewable generation.”

Existing law requires certain electric utilities to file a general rate application once every 36 months. Existing law prohibits a public utility that has filed a general rate application from filing another general rate application until all pending general rate applications filed by that utility have been decided by the Commission, except under certain circumstances. (NRS 704.110) **Section 3** of this bill authorizes an electric utility to file a general rate application more frequently than once every 36 months. **Section 3** provides that an affiliate of a public utility is also prohibited from filing another general rate application until all pending general rate applications filed by that utility have been decided by the Commission.

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

**Section 1.** NRS 701A.327 is hereby amended to read as follows:

701A.327 1. “Facility for the storage of energy from renewable generation” means a facility that is constructed or installed for the ~~sole~~ purpose of storing electric energy received from a facility for the generation of electricity from renewable energy for release at a later time, including, without limitation, a facility that is designed to use energy storage technology.

2. The term does not include a facility that is located on a residential property.

**Sec. 2.** Chapter 704 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*The Legislature hereby declares that:*

*1. Rising energy needs and supply chain issues in the western United States have affected Nevada’s ability to access the energy market to serve Nevada residents during periods of high energy demand.*

*2. It is paramount to the health and economic vitality of this State to ensure the affordability, availability and reliability of its electric supply.*

*3. An efficient regional energy market and comprehensive resource planning are essential to ensure affordable, safe and reliable electric service for customers of an electric utility from a balanced portfolio of supply and demand options, particularly in light of these challenges.*

*4. The integrated resource planning process must enable meaningful participation and robust review of a utility’s proposals by the Commission and stakeholders to ensure the affordability, resiliency and reliability of the state’s electric supply by considering all reasonable measures including, without limitation,*



*demand-side management and increasing utility-owned, controlled or contracted electric generating capacity.*

*5. Increasing access to reliable electric generating capacity and procuring the most cost-effective resources supports the provision of affordable, resilient and reliable energy services to Nevadans and this State should take advantage of federal funding and tax benefits that provide additional opportunities.*

*6. It continues to be in the interest of this State to invest in a portfolio of electric generation supply and demand-side management measures that increase energy reliability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with state policy.*

*7. It is in the interest of Nevada to reduce electric utilities' reliance on market purchases and secure sufficient energy supply to protect reliability in a manner that promotes affordability and may reduce exposure to price volatility for customers, through methods which include dedicated in-state resources and dedicated energy resources delivered through firm transmission.*

**Sec. 3.** NRS 704.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

704.110 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 704.075, 704.68861 to 704.68887, inclusive, and 704.7865, or as may otherwise be provided by the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.095, 704.097 or 704.7621:

1. If a public utility files with the Commission an application to make changes in any schedule, including, without limitation, changes that will result in a discontinuance, modification or restriction of service, the Commission shall investigate the propriety of the proposed changes to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed changes. If an electric utility files such an application and the application is a general rate application or an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application, the Consumer's Advocate shall be deemed a party of record.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if a public utility files with the Commission an application to make changes in any schedule, the Commission shall, not later than 210 days after the date on which the application is filed, issue a written order approving or disapproving, in whole or in part, the proposed changes.

3. If a public utility files with the Commission a general rate application, the public utility shall submit with its application a statement showing the recorded results of revenues, expenses, investments and costs of capital for its most recent 12 months for which data were available when the application was prepared. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, in determining whether to approve or disapprove any increased rates, the Commission shall consider evidence in support of the increased



1 rates based upon actual recorded results of operations for the same  
2 12 months, adjusted for increased revenues, any increased  
3 investment in facilities, increased expenses for depreciation, certain  
4 other operating expenses as approved by the Commission and are  
5 changes in the costs of securities which are known and are  
6 measurable with reasonable accuracy at the time of filing and which  
7 will become effective within 6 months after the last month of those  
8 12 months, but the public utility shall not place into effect any  
9 increased rates until the changes have been experienced and  
10 certified by the public utility to the Commission and the  
11 Commission has approved the increased rates. The Commission  
12 shall also consider evidence supporting expenses for depreciation,  
13 calculated on an annual basis, applicable to major components of the  
14 public utility's plant placed into service during the recorded test  
15 period or the period for certification as set forth in the application.  
16 Adjustments to revenues, operating expenses and costs of securities  
17 must be calculated on an annual basis. Within 90 days after the date  
18 on which the certification required by this subsection is filed with  
19 the Commission, or within the period set forth in subsection 2,  
20 whichever time is longer, the Commission shall make such order in  
21 reference to the increased rates as is required by this chapter. The  
22 following public utilities shall each file a general rate application  
23 pursuant to this subsection based on the following schedule:

24 (a) An electric utility that primarily serves less densely  
25 populated counties shall file a general rate application:

26 (1) Not later than 5 p.m. on or before the first Monday in  
27 June 2019; and

28 (2) ~~Once~~ **At least once** every 36 months thereafter or on a  
29 date specified in an alternative rate-making plan approved by the  
30 Commission pursuant to NRS 704.7621.

31 (b) An electric utility that primarily serves densely populated  
32 counties shall file a general rate application:

33 (1) Not later than 5 p.m. on or before the first Monday in  
34 June 2020; and

35 (2) ~~Once~~ **At least once** every 36 months thereafter or on a  
36 date specified in an alternative rate-making plan approved by the  
37 Commission pursuant to NRS 704.7621.

38 (c) A public utility that furnishes water for municipal, industrial  
39 or domestic purposes or services for the disposal of sewage, or both,  
40 which had an annual gross operating revenue of \$2,000,000 or more  
41 for at least 1 year during the immediately preceding 3 years and  
42 which had not filed a general rate application with the Commission  
43 on or after July 1, 2005, shall file a general rate application on or  
44 before June 30, 2008, and at least once every 36 months thereafter  
45 unless waived by the Commission pursuant to standards adopted by



1 regulation of the Commission. If a public utility furnishes both  
2 water and services for the disposal of sewage, its annual gross  
3 operating revenue for each service must be considered separately for  
4 determining whether the public utility meets the requirements of this  
5 paragraph for either service.

6 (d) A public utility that furnishes water for municipal, industrial  
7 or domestic purposes or services for the disposal of sewage, or both,  
8 which had an annual gross operating revenue of \$2,000,000 or more  
9 for at least 1 year during the immediately preceding 3 years and  
10 which had filed a general rate application with the Commission on  
11 or after July 1, 2005, shall file a general rate application on or before  
12 June 30, 2009, and at least once every 36 months thereafter unless  
13 waived by the Commission pursuant to standards adopted by  
14 regulation of the Commission. If a public utility furnishes both  
15 water and services for the disposal of sewage, its annual gross  
16 operating revenue for each service must be considered separately for  
17 determining whether the public utility meets the requirements of this  
18 paragraph for either service.

19 ➤ The Commission shall adopt regulations setting forth standards  
20 for waivers pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d) and for including the  
21 costs incurred by the public utility in preparing and presenting the  
22 general rate application before the effective date of any change in  
23 rates.

24 4. In addition to submitting the statement required pursuant to  
25 subsection 3, a public utility may submit with its general rate  
26 application a statement showing the effects, on an annualized basis,  
27 of all expected changes in circumstances. If such a statement is  
28 filed, it must include all increases and decreases in revenue and  
29 expenses which may occur within 210 days after the date on which  
30 its general rate application is filed with the Commission if such  
31 expected changes in circumstances are reasonably known and are  
32 measurable with reasonable accuracy. If a public utility submits  
33 such a statement, the public utility has the burden of proving that the  
34 expected changes in circumstances set forth in the statement are  
35 reasonably known and are measurable with reasonable accuracy.  
36 The Commission shall consider expected changes in circumstances  
37 to be reasonably known and measurable with reasonable accuracy if  
38 the expected changes in circumstances consist of specific and  
39 identifiable events or programs rather than general trends, patterns  
40 or developments, have an objectively high probability of occurring  
41 to the degree, in the amount and at the time expected, are primarily  
42 measurable by recorded or verifiable revenues and expenses and are  
43 easily and objectively calculated, with the calculation of the  
44 expected changes relying only secondarily on estimates, forecasts,



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1 projections or budgets. If the Commission determines that the public  
2 utility has met its burden of proof:

3 (a) The Commission shall consider the statement submitted  
4 pursuant to this subsection and evidence relevant to the statement,  
5 including all reasonable projected or forecasted offsets in revenue  
6 and expenses that are directly attributable to or associated with the  
7 expected changes in circumstances under consideration, in addition  
8 to the statement required pursuant to subsection 3 as evidence in  
9 establishing just and reasonable rates for the public utility; and

10 (b) The public utility is not required to file with the Commission  
11 the certification that would otherwise be required pursuant to  
12 subsection 3.

13 5. If a public utility files with the Commission an application to  
14 make changes in any schedule and the Commission does not issue a  
15 final written order regarding the proposed changes within the time  
16 required by this section, the proposed changes shall be deemed to be  
17 approved by the Commission.

18 6. If a public utility files with the Commission a general rate  
19 application, the public utility *, or a public utility affiliated with the*  
20 *public utility through common ownership*, shall not file with the  
21 Commission another general rate application until all pending  
22 general rate applications filed by that public utility have been  
23 decided by the Commission unless, after application and hearing,  
24 the Commission determines that a substantial financial emergency  
25 would exist if the public utility *or its affiliate* is not permitted to file  
26 another general rate application sooner. The provisions of this  
27 subsection do not prohibit ~~that~~ *a* public utility from filing with the  
28 Commission, while a general rate application is pending, an  
29 application to recover the increased cost of purchased fuel,  
30 purchased power, or natural gas purchased for resale pursuant to  
31 subsection 7, a quarterly rate adjustment pursuant to subsection 8 or  
32 10, any information relating to deferred accounting requirements  
33 pursuant to NRS 704.185 or an annual deferred energy accounting  
34 adjustment application pursuant to NRS 704.187, if the public utility  
35 is otherwise authorized to so file by those provisions.

36 7. A public utility may file an application to recover the  
37 increased cost of purchased fuel, purchased power, or natural gas  
38 purchased for resale once every 30 days. The provisions of this  
39 subsection do not apply to:

40 (a) An electric utility which is required to adjust its rates on a  
41 quarterly basis pursuant to subsection 10; or

42 (b) A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale and  
43 which adjusts its rates on a quarterly basis pursuant to subsection 8.

44 8. A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale must  
45 request approval from the Commission to adjust its rates on a



quarterly basis between annual rate adjustment applications based on changes in the public utility's recorded costs of natural gas purchased for resale. A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale and which adjusts its rates on a quarterly basis may request approval from the Commission to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. The Commission shall approve or deny such a request not later than 120 days after the application is filed with the Commission. The Commission may approve the request if the Commission finds that approval of the request is in the public interest. If the Commission approves a request to make quarterly adjustments to the deferred energy accounting adjustment of a public utility pursuant to this subsection, any quarterly adjustment to the deferred energy accounting adjustment must not exceed 2.5 cents per therm of natural gas. If the balance of the public utility's deferred account varies by less than 5 percent from the public utility's annual recorded costs of natural gas which are used to calculate quarterly rate adjustments, the deferred energy accounting adjustment must be set to zero cents per therm of natural gas.

9. If the Commission approves a request to make any rate adjustments on a quarterly basis pursuant to subsection 8:

(a) The public utility shall file written notice with the Commission before the public utility makes a quarterly rate adjustment. A quarterly rate adjustment is not subject to the requirements for notice and a hearing pursuant to NRS 703.320 or the requirements for a consumer session pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 704.069.

(b) The public utility shall provide written notice of each quarterly rate adjustment to its customers by including the written notice with a customer's regular monthly bill or by electronic transmission pursuant to NRS 704.188. The public utility shall begin providing such written notice to its customers not later than 30 days after the date on which the public utility files its written notice with the Commission pursuant to paragraph (a). The written notice required by this paragraph:

(1) Must be printed separately, if included with the customer's regular monthly bill, or the subject line of the electronic transmission must indicate that notice of a quarterly rate adjustment is included, if provided by electronic transmission pursuant to NRS 704.188; and

(2) Must include the following in clear and bold text:

(I) The total amount of the increase or decrease in the public utility's revenues from the rate adjustment, stated in dollars and as a percentage;



(II) The amount of the monthly increase or decrease in charges for each class of customer or class of service, stated in dollars and as a percentage;

(III) A statement that customers may send written comments or protests regarding the rate adjustment to the Commission;

(IV) A statement that the transactions and recorded costs of natural gas which are the basis for any quarterly rate adjustment will be reviewed for reasonableness and prudence in the next proceeding held by the Commission to review the annual rate adjustment application pursuant to paragraph (d); and

(V) Any other information required by the Commission.

(c) The public utility shall file an annual rate adjustment application with the Commission. The annual rate adjustment application is subject to the requirements for notice and a hearing pursuant to NRS 703.320 and the requirements for a consumer session pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 704.069.

(d) The proceeding regarding the annual rate adjustment application must include a review of each quarterly rate adjustment and the transactions and recorded costs of natural gas included in each quarterly filing and the annual rate adjustment application. There is no presumption of reasonableness or prudence for any quarterly rate adjustment or for any transactions or recorded costs of natural gas included in any quarterly rate adjustment or the annual rate adjustment application, and the public utility has the burden of proving reasonableness and prudence in the proceeding.

(e) The Commission shall not allow the public utility to recover any recorded costs of natural gas which were the result of any practice or transaction that was unreasonable or was undertaken, managed or performed imprudently by the public utility, and the Commission shall order the public utility to adjust its rates if the Commission determines that any recorded costs of natural gas included in any quarterly rate adjustment or the annual rate adjustment application were not reasonable or prudent.

10. An electric utility shall adjust its rates on a quarterly basis based on changes in the electric utility's recorded costs of purchased fuel or purchased power. In addition to adjusting its rates on a quarterly basis, an electric utility may request approval from the Commission to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. The Commission shall approve or deny such a request not later than 120 days after the application is filed with the Commission. The Commission may approve the request if the Commission finds that approval of the request is in the public interest. If the Commission approves a request to make quarterly adjustments to the deferred energy accounting adjustment of an



electric utility pursuant to this subsection, any quarterly adjustment to the deferred energy accounting adjustment must not exceed 0.25 cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity. If the balance of the electric utility's deferred account varies by less than 5 percent from the electric utility's annual recorded costs for purchased fuel or purchased power which are used to calculate quarterly rate adjustments, the deferred energy accounting adjustment must be set to zero cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity.

11. A quarterly rate adjustment filed pursuant to subsection 10 is subject to the following requirements:

(a) The electric utility shall file written notice with the Commission on or before August 15, 2007, and every quarter thereafter of the quarterly rate adjustment to be made by the electric utility for the following quarter. The first quarterly rate adjustment by the electric utility will take effect on October 1, 2007, and each subsequent quarterly rate adjustment will take effect every quarter thereafter. The first quarterly adjustment to a deferred energy accounting adjustment must be made pursuant to an order issued by the Commission approving the application of an electric utility to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. A quarterly rate adjustment is not subject to the requirements for notice and a hearing pursuant to NRS 703.320 or the requirements for a consumer session pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 704.069.

(b) The electric utility shall provide written notice of each quarterly rate adjustment to its customers by including the written notice with a customer's regular monthly bill or by electronic submission pursuant to NRS 704.188. The electric utility shall begin providing such written notice to its customers not later than 30 days after the date on which the electric utility files a written notice with the Commission pursuant to paragraph (a). The written notice required by this paragraph:

(1) Must be printed separately, if included with the customer's regular monthly bill, or the subject line of the electronic transmission must indicate that notice of a quarterly rate adjustment is included, if provided by electronic transmission pursuant to NRS 704.188; and

(2) Must include the following in clear and bold text:

(I) The total amount of the increase or decrease in the electric utility's revenues from the rate adjustment, stated in dollars and as a percentage;

(II) The amount of the monthly increase or decrease in charges for each class of customer or class of service, stated in dollars and as a percentage;



(III) A statement that customers may send written comments or protests regarding the rate adjustment to the Commission;

(IV) A statement that the transactions and recorded costs of purchased fuel or purchased power which are the basis for any quarterly rate adjustment will be reviewed for reasonableness and prudence in the next proceeding held by the Commission to review the annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application pursuant to paragraph (d); and

(V) Any other information required by the Commission.

(c) The electric utility shall file an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application pursuant to NRS 704.187 with the Commission. The annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application is subject to the requirements for notice and a hearing pursuant to NRS 703.320 and the requirements for a consumer session pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 704.069.

(d) The proceeding regarding the annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application must include a review of each quarterly rate adjustment and the transactions and recorded costs of purchased fuel and purchased power included in each quarterly filing and the annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application. There is no presumption of reasonableness or prudence for any quarterly rate adjustment or for any transactions or recorded costs of purchased fuel and purchased power included in any quarterly rate adjustment or the annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application, and the electric utility has the burden of proving reasonableness and prudence in the proceeding.

(e) The Commission shall not allow the electric utility to recover any recorded costs of purchased fuel and purchased power which were the result of any practice or transaction that was unreasonable or was undertaken, managed or performed imprudently by the electric utility, and the Commission shall order the electric utility to adjust its rates if the Commission determines that any recorded costs of purchased fuel and purchased power included in any quarterly rate adjustment or the annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application were not reasonable or prudent.

12. If an electric utility files an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application pursuant to subsection 11 and NRS 704.187 while a general rate application is pending, the electric utility shall:

(a) Submit with its annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application information relating to the cost of service and rate design; and



(b) Supplement its general rate application with the same information, if such information was not submitted with the general rate application.

13. A utility facility identified in a 3-year plan submitted pursuant to NRS 704.741 and accepted by the Commission for acquisition or construction pursuant to NRS 704.751 and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, or the retirement or elimination of a utility facility identified in an emissions reduction and capacity replacement plan submitted pursuant to NRS 704.7316 and accepted by the Commission for retirement or elimination pursuant to NRS 704.751 and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, shall be deemed to be a prudent investment. The utility may recover all just and reasonable costs of planning and constructing, or retiring or eliminating, as applicable, such a facility. For the purposes of this subsection, a plan or an amendment to a plan shall be deemed to be accepted by the Commission only as to that portion of the plan or amendment accepted as filed or modified with the consent of the utility pursuant to NRS 704.751.

14. In regard to any rate or schedule approved or disapproved pursuant to this section, the Commission may, after a hearing:

(a) Upon the request of the utility, approve a new rate but delay the implementation of that new rate:

(1) Until a date determined by the Commission; and

(2) Under conditions as determined by the Commission, including, without limitation, a requirement that interest charges be included in the collection of the new rate; and

(b) Authorize a utility to implement a reduced rate for low-income residential customers.

15. The Commission may, upon request and for good cause shown, permit a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale or an electric utility to make a quarterly adjustment to its deferred energy accounting adjustment in excess of the maximum allowable adjustment pursuant to subsection 8 or 10.

16. A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale or an electric utility that makes quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment pursuant to subsection 8 or 10 may submit to the Commission for approval an application to discontinue making quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment and to subsequently make annual adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. The Commission may approve an application submitted pursuant to this subsection if the Commission finds that approval of the application is in the public interest.

17. As used in this section:



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(a) "Deferred energy accounting adjustment" means the rate of a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale or an electric utility that is calculated by dividing the balance of a deferred account during a specified period by the total therms or kilowatt-hours which have been sold in the geographical area to which the rate applies during the specified period, not including kilowatt-hours sold pursuant to an expanded solar access program established pursuant to NRS 704.7865.

(b) "Electric utility" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704.187.

(c) "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 700,000 or more than it does from customers located in counties whose population is less than 700,000.

(d) "Electric utility that primarily serves less 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 less than 700,000 than it does from customers located in counties whose population is 700,000 or more.

**Sec. 4.** NRS 704.741 is hereby amended to read as follows:

704.741 1. A utility which supplies electricity in this State shall, on or before June 1 of every third year, *or more often if necessary*, in the manner specified by the Commission, submit a plan to increase its supply of electricity or decrease the demands made on its system by its customers to the Commission. Two or more utilities that are affiliated through common ownership and that have an interconnected system for the transmission of electricity shall submit a joint plan.

2. The Commission shall, by regulation:

(a) Prescribe the contents of such a plan, including, but not limited to, the methods or formulas which are used by the utility or utilities to:

(1) Forecast the future demands, except that a forecast of the future retail electric demands of the utility or utilities must not include the amount of energy and capacity proposed pursuant to subsection ~~5~~ 6 as annual limits on the total amount of energy and capacity that eligible customers may be authorized to purchase from providers of new electric resources through transactions approved by the Commission pursuant to an application submitted pursuant to NRS 704B.310 on or after May 16, 2019; and

(2) Determine the best combination of sources of supply to meet the demands or the best method to reduce them; ~~and~~



(b) Designate renewable energy zones and revise the designated renewable energy zones as the Commission deems necessary ~~H~~ ;  
and

*(c) Establish requirements governing the manner in which and circumstances under which an amendment may be filed with the Commission to modify an approved plan.*

3. The Commission shall require the utility or utilities to include in the plan:

(a) An energy efficiency program for residential customers which reduces the consumption of electricity or any fossil fuel and which includes, without limitation, the use of new solar thermal energy sources.

(b) A proposal for the expenditure of not less than 10 percent of the total expenditures related to energy efficiency and conservation programs on energy efficiency measures for customers of the electric utility in low-income households and residential customers and public schools in historically underserved communities, through both targeted programs and programs directed at residential customers and public schools in general.

(c) A comparison of a diverse set of scenarios of the best combination of sources of supply to meet the demands or the best methods to reduce the demands, which must include ~~fat~~ :

*(1) At least one scenario of low carbon dioxide emissions that:*

~~I(1)~~ *(I)* Uses sources of supply that result in, by 2050, an amount of energy production from zero carbon dioxide emission resources that equals the forecasted demand for electricity by customers of the utility;

~~I(2)~~ *(II)* Includes the deployment of distributed generation; and

~~I(3)~~ *(III)* If the plan is submitted on or before June 1, 2027, uses sources of supply that result in, by the year 2030, an 80 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the generation of electricity to meet the demands of customers of the utility as compared to the amount of such emissions in the year 2005.

*(2) At least one scenario that provides for the construction or acquisition of energy resources through contract or ownership to be placed into service to close an open position utilizing dedicated energy resources in this State and dedicated energy resources delivered through firm transmission.*

*↪ A requirement to include a particular scenario in the plan pursuant to this paragraph, or the compliance of a utility with such a requirement, shall not be construed as indicating a preference by the Commission or the utility for a particular scenario.*



(d) An analysis of the effects of the requirements of NRS 704.766 to 704.776, inclusive, on the reliability of the distribution system of the utility or utilities and the costs to the utility or utilities to provide electric service to all customers. The analysis must include an evaluation of the costs and benefits of addressing issues of reliability through investment in the distribution system.

(e) A list of the utility's or utilities' assets described in NRS 704.7338.

(f) A surplus asset retirement plan as required by NRS 704.734.

**4. For each scenario considered pursuant to subsection 3, the plan must include, without limitation:**

**(a) For each energy resource proposed:**

**(1) A description of each energy resource to be constructed, acquired or contracted for by the utility, including, without limitation, the location of the energy resource, the technology to be used by the energy resource to generate electricity, the anticipated capacity of the energy resource and the anticipated date by which the energy resource will be placed into service;**

**(2) The cost of constructing or acquiring, operating and maintaining the energy resource or, if the energy resource is contracted for by the utility, the price of the energy to be supplied by the energy resource;**

**(3) Whether the energy resource will be owned by the utility or utilized by the utility pursuant to a contract with a third party; and**

**(4) Any other information required by the Commission to evaluate the prudence of the scenario.**

**(b) An evaluation of the impact that the implementation of the scenario will have on:**

**(1) The ability of the utility to decrease its reliance on market purchases to meet the utility's open energy load requirements, including, without limitation, any appropriate reserves, and the forecast of energy needs over the next 10 years;**

**(2) The ability of the utility to reliably integrate into its supply portfolio larger amounts of electricity from variable energy resources, including, without limitation, solar, geothermal, hydropower and wind energy resources;**

**(3) The ability of the utility to access energy markets or geographic locations that have excess capacity to import into this State through firm transmission to ensure additional reliability in times of increased energy needs;**

**(4) The ability of the utility to increase access to carbon-free energy, support compliance with the renewable portfolio standard and advance the goals for the reduction of greenhouse**



gas emissions set forth in NRS 445B.380 and 704.7820 through a balanced portfolio of energy supply and demand-side resources;

(5) The ability of the utility to demonstrate to a regional entity that the utility has adequate resources to meet the forecast for energy needs over the next 10 years;

(6) The ability of the utility to advance cost-effective demand-side management;

(7) The rates charged to the customers of the utility, provided that, in implementing the plan, the utility must endeavor to mitigate costs for the benefit of customers to the extent possible by utilizing federal funding and tax credits available to utilities or third parties for the development of electric resources; and

(8) The benefits from high-quality jobs, job training and apprenticeships provided by the projects included in the plan, whether constructed or operated by the utility or a third-party developer.

~~14.1~~ 5. The Commission shall require the utility or utilities to include in the plan a distributed resources plan. The distributed resources plan must:

(a) Evaluate the locational benefits and costs of distributed resources. This evaluation must be based on reductions or increases in local generation capacity needs, avoided or increased investments in distribution infrastructure, safety benefits, reliability benefits and any other savings the distributed resources provide to the electricity grid for this State or costs to customers of the electric utility or utilities.

(b) Propose or identify standard tariffs, contracts or other mechanisms for the deployment of cost-effective distributed resources that satisfy the objectives for distribution planning.

(c) Propose cost-effective methods of effectively coordinating existing programs approved by the Commission, incentives and tariffs to maximize the locational benefits and minimize the incremental costs of distributed resources.

(d) Identify any additional spending necessary to integrate cost-effective distributed resources into distribution planning consistent with the goal of yielding a net benefit to the customers of the electric utility or utilities.

(e) Identify barriers to the deployment of distributed resources, including, without limitation, safety standards related to technology or operation of the distribution system in a manner that ensures reliable service.

(f) Include a transportation electrification plan as required by NRS 704.7867.

~~15.1~~ 6. The Commission shall require the utility or utilities to include in the plan a proposal for annual limits on the total amount



1 of energy and capacity that eligible customers may be authorized to  
2 purchase from providers of new electric resources through  
3 transactions approved by the Commission pursuant to an application  
4 submitted pursuant to NRS 704B.310 on or after May 16, 2019. In  
5 developing the proposal and the forecasts in the plan, the utility or  
6 utilities must use a sensitivity analysis that, at a minimum, addresses  
7 load growth, import capacity, system constraints and the effect of  
8 eligible customers purchasing less energy and capacity than  
9 authorized by the proposed annual limit. The proposal in the plan  
10 must include, without limitation:

- 11 (a) A forecast of the load growth of the utility or utilities;
- 12 (b) The number of eligible customers that are currently being  
13 served by or anticipated to be served by the utility or utilities;
- 14 (c) Information concerning the infrastructure of the utility or  
15 utilities that is available to accommodate market-based new electric  
16 resources;
- 17 (d) Proposals to ensure the stability of rates and the availability  
18 and reliability of electric service; and
- 19 (e) For each year of the plan, impact fees applicable to each  
20 megawatt or each megawatt hour to account for costs reflected in  
21 the base tariff general rate and base tariff energy rate paid by end-  
22 use customers of the electric utility.

23 ~~16.1~~ 7. The annual limits proposed pursuant to subsection ~~15.1~~ 6  
24 shall not apply to energy and capacity sales to an eligible customer  
25 if the eligible customer:

- 26 (a) Was not an end-use customer of the electric utility at any  
27 time before June 12, 2019; and
- 28 (b) Would have a peak load of 10 megawatts or more in the  
29 service territory of an electric utility within 2 years of initially  
30 taking electric service.

31 ~~17.1~~ 8. As used in this section:

32 (a) “Distributed generation system” has the meaning ascribed to  
33 it in NRS 701.380.

34 (b) “Distributed resources” means distributed generation  
35 systems, energy efficiency, energy storage, electric vehicles and  
36 demand-response technologies.

37 (c) “Eligible customer” has the meaning ascribed to it in  
38 NRS 704B.080.

39 (d) “Energy” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704B.090.

40 (e) “Historically underserved community” has the meaning  
41 ascribed to it in NRS 704.78343.

42 (f) “Low-income household” has the meaning ascribed to it in  
43 NRS 704.78347.

44 (g) “New electric resource” has the meaning ascribed to it in  
45 NRS 704B.110.



(h) "Provider of new electric resources" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704B.130.

(i) "Renewable energy zones" means specific geographic zones where renewable energy resources are sufficient to develop generation capacity and where transmission constrains the delivery of electricity from those resources to customers.

(j) "Sensitivity analysis" means a set of methods or procedures which results in a determination or estimation of the sensitivity of a result to a change in given data or a given assumption.

**Sec. 5.** NRS 704.744 is hereby amended to read as follows:

704.744 1. The Commission shall require each utility which supplies electricity in this State, not less than 4 months before filing a plan required pursuant to NRS 704.741, or within a reasonable period before filing an amendment to such a plan ~~pursuant to NRS 704.751,~~ *in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.741,* to meet with personnel from the Commission and the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Office of the Attorney General and any other interested persons to provide an overview of the anticipated filing or amendment.

*2. Each utility which supplies electricity in this State shall, before filing a plan required pursuant to NRS 704.741 or an amendment to such a plan, schedule at least one consumer session to review the plan or amendment and provide an opportunity for interested persons to:*

*(a) Learn about the progress of the utility in developing plans and amendments to plans;*

*(b) Determine whether key assumptions are being applied in a consistent and acceptable manner;*

*(c) Determine whether key results are reasonable; and*

*(d) Offer suggestions on other matters as appropriate.*

*3. Each utility shall prepare a summary of each consumer session held pursuant to subsection 2 and include the summary in the testimony of the utility in support of the plan or amendment to the plan.*

**Sec. 6.** NRS 704.746 is hereby amended to read as follows:

704.746 1. After a utility has filed its plan pursuant to NRS 704.741, the Commission shall convene a public hearing on the adequacy of the plan.

2. The Commission shall determine the parties to the public hearing on the adequacy of the plan. A person or governmental entity may petition the Commission for leave to intervene as a party. The Commission must grant a petition to intervene as a party in the hearing if the person or entity has relevant material evidence to provide concerning the adequacy of the plan. The Commission may limit participation of an intervener in the hearing to avoid



1 duplication and may prohibit continued participation in the hearing  
2 by an intervener if the Commission determines that continued  
3 participation will unduly broaden the issues, will not provide  
4 additional relevant material evidence or is not necessary to further  
5 the public interest.

6 3. In addition to any party to the hearing, any interested person  
7 may make comments to the Commission regarding the contents and  
8 adequacy of the plan.

9 4. After the hearing, the Commission shall determine whether:

10 (a) The forecast requirements of the utility or utilities are based  
11 on substantially accurate data and an adequate method of  
12 forecasting.

13 (b) The plan identifies and takes into account any present and  
14 projected reductions in the demand for energy that may result from  
15 measures to improve energy efficiency in the industrial,  
16 commercial, residential and energy producing sectors of the area  
17 being served.

18 (c) The plan adequately demonstrates the economic,  
19 environmental and other benefits to this State and to the customers  
20 of the utility or utilities associated with the following possible  
21 measures and sources of supply:

22 (1) Improvements in energy efficiency;

23 (2) Pooling of power;

24 (3) Purchases of power from neighboring states or countries;

25 (4) Facilities that operate on solar or geothermal energy or  
26 wind;

27 (5) Facilities that operate on the principle of cogeneration or  
28 hydrogeneration;

29 (6) Other generation facilities; and

30 (7) Other transmission facilities.

31 5. The Commission shall give preference to the measures and  
32 sources of supply set forth in paragraph (c) of subsection 4 that:

33 (a) Provide the greatest economic and environmental benefits to  
34 the State;

35 (b) Are consistent with the provisions of this section;

36 (c) Provide levels of service that are adequate and reliable;

37 (d) Provide the greatest opportunity for the creation of new jobs  
38 in this State; and

39 (e) Provide for diverse electricity supply portfolios and which  
40 reduce customer exposure to the price volatility of fossil fuels and  
41 the potential costs of carbon.

42 ➤ In considering the measures and sources of supply set forth in  
43 paragraph (c) of subsection 4 and determining the preference given  
44 to such measures and sources of supply, the Commission shall



1 consider the cost of those measures and sources of supply to the  
2 customers of the electric utility or utilities.

3 6. The Commission shall:

4 (a) Adopt regulations which determine the level of preference to  
5 be given to those measures and sources of supply; and

6 (b) Consider the value to the public of using water efficiently  
7 when it is determining those preferences.

8 7. The Commission shall:

9 (a) Consider the level of financial commitment from developers  
10 of renewable energy projects in each renewable energy zone, as  
11 designated pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 704.741; and

12 (b) Adopt regulations establishing a process for considering  
13 such commitments including, without limitation, contracts for the  
14 sale of energy, leases of land and mineral rights, cash deposits and  
15 letters of credit.

16 8. The Commission shall, after a hearing, review and accept or  
17 modify an emissions reduction and capacity replacement plan which  
18 includes each element required by NRS 704.7316. In considering  
19 whether to accept or modify an emissions reduction and capacity  
20 replacement plan, the Commission shall consider:

21 (a) The cost to the customers of the electric utility or utilities to  
22 implement the plan;

23 (b) Whether the plan provides the greatest economic benefit to  
24 this State;

25 (c) Whether the plan provides the greatest opportunities for the  
26 creation of new jobs in this State; and

27 (d) Whether the plan represents the best value to the customers  
28 of the electric utility or utilities.

29 9. In considering whether to accept or modify a proposal for  
30 annual limits on the total amount of energy and capacity that eligible  
31 customers may be authorized to purchase from providers of new  
32 electric resources through transactions approved by the Commission  
33 pursuant to an application submitted pursuant to NRS 704B.310  
34 after May 16, 2019, which is included in the plan pursuant to  
35 subsection ~~5~~ 6 of NRS 704.741, the Commission shall consider  
36 whether the proposed annual limits:

37 (a) Further the public interest, including, without limitation,  
38 whether the proposed annual limits promote safe, economic,  
39 efficient and reliable electric service to all customers of electric  
40 service in this State;

41 (b) Align an economically viable utility model with state public  
42 policy goals; and

43 (c) Encourage the development and use of renewable energy  
44 resources located in this State and, in particular, renewable energy  
45 resources that are coupled with energy storage.



10. In considering whether to accept or modify a plan to accelerate transportation electrification submitted pursuant to NRS 704.7867, the Commission shall consider:

(a) Whether the proposed investments, incentives, rate designs, systems and programs are reasonably expected to achieve one or more of the following:

(1) Improve the efficiency of the electric utility's electrical system, operational flexibility or system utilization during off-peak hours;

(2) Improve the ability of the electric utility to integrate renewable energy resources which generate electricity on an intermittent basis into the transmission and distribution grid;

(3) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution;

(4) Improve air quality in communities most affected by air pollution from the transportation sector;

(5) Support increased consumer choice in electric vehicle charging and related infrastructure and services;

(6) Increase access to the use of electricity as a transportation fuel by low-income users by including investments, incentives or programs for those users, or for entities operating in communities or at locations that will benefit low-income users;

(7) Foster the investment of private capital in transportation electrification, as defined in NRS 704.7867, and the demand for skilled jobs in related services; and

(8) Provide information and education on the benefits of transportation electrification to customers.

(b) Whether the proposed investments, incentives, rate designs, systems and programs provide electric services and pricing that customers value.

(c) Whether the proposed investments, incentives, systems and programs incorporate public reporting requirements which will serve to inform program design and Commission policy.

(d) The cost to the customers of the electric utility to implement the plan.

**Sec. 7.** NRS 704.751 is hereby amended to read as follows:

704.751 1. After a utility has filed the plan required pursuant to NRS 704.741, the Commission shall issue an order accepting or modifying the plan or specifying any portions of the plan it deems to be inadequate:

(a) Within 135 days for any portion of the plan relating to the energy supply plan for the utility for the 3 years covered by the plan; and

(b) Within 210 days for all portions of the plan not described in paragraph (a).



1    ➤ If the Commission issues an order modifying the plan, the utility  
2 or utilities may consent to or reject some or all of the modifications  
3 by filing with the Commission a notice to that effect. Any such  
4 notice must be filed not later than 30 days after the date of issuance  
5 of the order. If such a notice is filed, any petition for reconsideration  
6 or rehearing of the order must be filed with the Commission not  
7 later than 10 business days after the date the notice is filed.

8    2. If a utility files an amendment to a plan, the Commission  
9 shall issue an order accepting or modifying the amendment or  
10 specifying any portions of the amendment it deems to be  
11 inadequate:

12        (a) Within 165 days after the filing of the amendment; or

13        (b) Within 180 days after the filing of the amendment for all  
14 portions of the amendment which contain an element of the  
15 emissions reduction and capacity replacement plan.

16    ➤ If the Commission issues an order modifying the amendment, the  
17 utility or utilities may consent to or reject some or all of the  
18 modifications by filing with the Commission a notice to that effect.  
19 Any such notice must be filed not later than 30 days after the date of  
20 issuance of the order. If such a notice is filed, any petition for  
21 reconsideration or rehearing of the order must be filed with the  
22 Commission not later than 10 business days after the date the notice  
23 is filed.

24    3. Any order issued by the Commission accepting or modifying  
25 a plan required pursuant to NRS 704.741 or an amendment to such a  
26 plan must include the justification of the Commission for the  
27 preferences given pursuant to subsection 5 of NRS 704.746 to the  
28 measures and sources of supply set forth in paragraph (c) of  
29 subsection 4 of NRS 704.746.

30    4. All prudent and reasonable expenditures made to develop  
31 the utility's or utilities' plan, including environmental, engineering  
32 and other studies, must be recovered from the rates charged to the  
33 utility's or utilities' customers.

34    5. The Commission may accept an energy efficiency plan  
35 containing an energy efficiency program submitted pursuant to  
36 paragraph (a) of subsection 3 of NRS 704.741 and energy efficiency  
37 and conservation programs submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) of  
38 subsection 3 of NRS 704.741 that are not cost effective if the energy  
39 efficiency plan as a whole is cost effective. Any order issued by the  
40 Commission accepting or modifying an energy efficiency plan or an  
41 amendment to such a plan must, if the energy efficiency plan  
42 remains cost effective, require that not less than 10 percent of the  
43 total expenditures of the utility or utilities on approved energy  
44 efficiency and conservation programs in the energy efficiency plan  
45 must be specifically directed to energy efficiency measures for



customers of the utility or utilities in low-income households and residential customers and public schools in historically underserved communities, through both targeted programs and programs directed at residential customers and public schools in general.

6. The Commission may accept a distributed resources plan submitted pursuant to subsection ~~4~~ 5 of NRS 704.741 if the Commission determines that the plan includes each element required by that subsection.

7. Any order issued by the Commission accepting or modifying an element of an emissions reduction and capacity replacement plan must include provisions authorizing the electric utility or utilities to construct or acquire and own electric generating plants necessary to meet the capacity amounts approved in, and carry out the provisions of, the plan. As used in this subsection, “capacity” means an amount of firm electric generating capacity used by the electric utility or utilities for the purpose of preparing a plan filed with the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.736 to 704.754, inclusive.

8. The Commission shall accept a transmission infrastructure for a clean energy economy plan that conforms to the requirements of subsections 1 and 2 of NRS 704.79877 and includes the evaluations required by subsection 4 of NRS 704.79877.

9. As used in this section:

(a) “Historically underserved community” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704.78343.

(b) “Low-income household” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704.78347.

**Sec. 8.** Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 218D.430 and 218D.435, a committee may vote on this act before the expiration of the period prescribed for the return of a fiscal note in NRS 218D.475. This section applies retroactively from and after May 26, 2023.

**Sec. 9.** 1. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

2. Section 1 of this act expires by limitation on June 30, 2049.

