

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 583

Introduced by Schilz, 47; Kolowski, 31; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7; Pansing
Brooks, 28.

Read first time January 21, 2015

Committee: Natural Resources

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the State Energy Office; to require a state
- 2 energy plan; and to provide powers and duties.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that:

2 (a) Comprehensive planning enables the state to address its energy
3 needs, challenges, and opportunities and to capture the economic benefits
4 of energy production and technological innovation;

5 (b) Significant improvements in energy efficiency and investments in
6 new clean and renewable energy resources and technologies may affect
7 energy costs and efforts should be made to mitigate cost increases and
8 ensure that Nebraska's electricity rates remain competitive; and

9 (c) Extensive research has been done and is available from the
10 state's public power entities and it is in the best interest of the state
11 to utilize the resources, including data, experience, and knowledge, that
12 the utilities offer to create a comprehensive state energy plan.

13 (2) The State Energy Office shall develop and adopt an integrated
14 state energy plan on or before December 31, 2015, and review such plan
15 periodically as the office deems necessary. The office may organize
16 technical and working committees of individuals representing public and
17 nonpublic entities with expertise in energy development and
18 responsibilities to Nebraska residents as consumers of energy to assist
19 in the creation and subsequent updates of the plan. The office may
20 organize an advisory committee of individuals with diverse energy-related
21 interests. The chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
22 Legislature, the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the
23 Legislature, and three members of the Legislature selected by the
24 Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall be ex officio members of
25 such advisory committee.

26 (3) The plan shall include a review of and recommendations for the
27 appropriate roles of state government, policymakers, political
28 subdivisions, and private industry in energy planning.

29 (4) The plan shall include short-term and long-term objectives that
30 will: Ensure a secure, reliable, and stable energy system for the
31 residents and businesses in the state; maintain and improve the state's

1 cost-competitive energy supply and ensure access to affordable energy for
2 all residents; promote sustainable economic growth, job creation, and
3 economic development; and provide the means for the state's energy policy
4 to adapt to changing circumstances.

5 (5) The state energy plan shall include, but not be limited to:

6 (a) Analysis of the state's current utility structure and supply and
7 demand projections;

8 (b) References to and comparisons with other state plans affecting
9 energy and opportunities for partnerships;

10 (c) Goals and recommendations:

11 (i) To ensure access to cost-competitive energy supplies at the
12 lowest practicable environmental cost and maximum economic benefits;

13 (ii) For future economic and investment decisions, state, local, and
14 federal government coordination, and public-private partnerships;

15 (iii) To incorporate new technologies and opportunities for energy
16 diversification that will maximize Nebraska resources and support local
17 economic development;

18 (iv) For an affordable and reliable energy grid;

19 (v) To pursue demand-side options wherever economically and
20 environmentally practicable;

21 (vi) For marketing and promoting the state's renewable energy
22 resources, including solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass;

23 (vii) For advanced transportation technologies, alternative fuels,
24 and infrastructure;

25 (viii) To develop and enhance oil, natural gas, and electricity
26 production and distribution;

27 (ix) For energy system resiliency and supply distribution
28 preparedness and response;

29 (x) For a uniform process for responding to and preparing for
30 proposed federal laws, rules, and regulations;

31 (xi) For removing barriers to increased development of renewable

1 energy for export, including the development of a transmission
2 development strategy for the state; and

3 (xii) For a mechanism to measure the plan's progress;

4 (d) An analysis completed by the State Energy Office of the impacts
5 to energy producers and customers resulting from federal regulations to
6 reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil-fuel-fired electric
7 generating units, including the effect on energy markets and reliability
8 and the commercial availability of technology required to comply with
9 such regulations. The analysis shall include the state's responsibilities
10 and duties under the federal regulations, policy options, and
11 recommendations for compliance.

12 Sec. 2. The State Energy Office shall: (1) Develop and disseminate
13 impartial, transparent, and objective energy information and analysis,
14 while taking full advantage of the capabilities of the state's agencies,
15 public power entities, postsecondary educational institutions, federal
16 agencies, and other organizations with relevant expertise and analytical
17 capabilities; (2) actively seek to maximize federal and other nonstate
18 funding and support to the state for energy efficiency, renewable energy,
19 emerging energy technologies, and other activities of benefit to the
20 state's overall energy future; (3) work with transmission and
21 distribution entities, state agencies involved in the issuance of permits
22 for energy generation facilities, and other relevant entities to ensure
23 that the state energy plan recommends a productive and consistent method
24 of working with and marketing the state's natural resources to developers
25 of renewable generation who are interested in building energy generation
26 facilities or developing or utilizing energy transmission infrastructure
27 in the state; and (4) monitor energy transmission capacity planning and
28 policy affecting the state and the regulatory approval process for the
29 development of energy infrastructure and make recommendations to the
30 Governor and electronically to the Legislature as necessary to facilitate
31 energy infrastructure planning and development.

1 Sec. 3. The State Energy Office is authorized to obtain detailed
2 information regarding the costs of generation, transmission, and
3 distribution of electricity from the state's public power districts,
4 public power and irrigation districts, municipalities, and cooperatives
5 in order to carry out the requirements of section 2 of this act.