

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2464 (Wicks) – As Amended March 26, 2026

Policy Committee: Utilities and Energy

Vote: 17 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to prepare a report to the Legislature on the role and necessity of firm zero-carbon resources.

Specifically, this bill requires CEC, on or before January 1, 2028, and working with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on the role and necessity of firm zero-carbon resources that provides a statewide assessment of all of the following:

- 1) The role and necessity of firm zero-carbon resources in meeting the state's clean energy and reliability objectives.
- 2) Potential technologies and strategies for integrating firm zero-carbon resources into the state's energy mix.
- 3) Recommendations on procurement, policy, safety and planning actions to deploy and support firm zero-carbon resources, if deemed necessary.
- 4) Current and projected renewable and firm zero-carbon generation capacity, reliability requirements under varying system conditions, and the cost and emission implications of firm zero-carbon resources.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

This bill will create significant new work and, therefore, costs for the CEC and, to a somewhat lesser extent, the CPUC to prepare the report described above. Costs at likely to range from hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars one time (special funds).

In any case, regardless of actual costs, because this bill has the primary purpose of creating a report, it is a candidate for the suspense file, consistent with the committee's rules and its custom and practice.

**COMMENTS:**

California has ambitious clean energy goals, the achievement of which is uncertain. According to the author:

California faces a critical juncture in its energy transition. With statutory requirements to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045 under Senate Bill 100, combined with rapidly growing electricity demand from transportation electrification, building electrification, and emerging data center loads, the state must fundamentally transform its power infrastructure. While variable renewable energy sources like solar and wind are increasingly cost-effective and scalable, research consistently demonstrates that California cannot achieve its clean energy goals through these technologies alone while maintaining grid reliability and affordability. AB 2464 strengthens California's ability to meet its 100% clean electricity targets by requiring the state to explicitly plan for and procure clean, firm, zero-carbon energy resources.

There is neither support for, nor opposition against this bill.

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