

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 2464 (Wicks)

As Amended March 26, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California Energy Commission (CEC), working with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), to complete a statewide assessment on the role and necessity of firm zero-carbon resources and report findings to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2028.

Major Provisions

Defines "firm zero-carbon resources" as electrical resources that can individually, or in combination, deliver zero-carbon electricity with high availability for the expected duration of multi-day extreme or atypical weather events, including periods of low renewable energy generation, and facilitate integration of eligible renewable energy resources into the electrical grid and the transition to a zero-carbon electrical grid. (Public Resources Code Section 25305.5)

COMMENTS

This bill seeks to provide information to the Legislature on the role and necessity of firm zero-carbon resources. While not explicitly defined as such, this may include resources such as nuclear, geothermal, hydrogen, and hydroelectric power (among others). The CEC and CPUC would work jointly to provide this information to address a range of topics, including recommendations for procurement and integration of these resources into the State's energy mix.

The goal of this bill is to help inform how California will meet clean energy and reliability goals, principally the SB 100 (De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) requirement to be 100% carbon free by 2045. This assessment may help address what role firm zero-carbon resources play in reaching that goal. In particular, the role these resources might play in addressing the 40% of renewable portfolio standard requirements not currently defined post-2030.

According to the Author

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."

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill would likely create one-time costs in the range of hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars for the CEC and CPUC to prepare the report.

VOTES**ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 17-0-1**

YES: Petrie-Norris, Patterson, Boerner, Calderon, Davies, Mark González, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Kalra, Papan, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Ta, Wallis, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Chen

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: March 26, 2026

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