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THIRD READING

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Bill No: SB 1158  
Author: Stern (D)  
Amended: 5/14/26  
Vote: 21

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SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 4/13/26  
AYES: Allen, Ochoa Bogh, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Dahle, Gonzalez,  
Grove, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Stern, Strickland, Wahab  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Becker, Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26  
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

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**SUBJECT:** Energy: reliability planning assessment

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill requires specified information to be included in a required quarterly energy reliability report.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (California Energy Commission (CEC)) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), on or before December 15, 2022, and quarterly thereafter, to submit to the Legislature a joint Reliability Planning Assessment that, among other things, includes prospective information on existing and expected resources, including updates on the interconnection status for renewable projects and any delays in interconnection, and expected retirements for both system and local resources. (Public Resources Code §25233 (a))

- 2) Requires the CEC to report in the energy almanac on California energy resources that serve load in California. (Public Resources Code §25233(b))

This bill requires the Joint Reliability Planning Assessment to also include:

- a) The status of utility transmission upgrades and electrical grid infrastructure capacity.
- b) CPUC approvals of applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity and permits to construct utility and independent projects,

## **Background**

*SB 846 (Dodd, Chapter 239, Statutes of 2022).* As part of authorizing a five-year extension of the operation of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP), SB 846 mandated the CEC and CPUC to develop and provide to the Legislature quarterly Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessments beginning on December 15, 2022. The assessments are required to provide specified information about forecasted energy supply and demand, the timing of new load and resources within the balancing authority of the CAISO and its transmission access charge areas. Additionally, the assessment is required to include information about imports, the interconnection status for renewable projects, and expected retirements for system and local resources. The assessment must also provide recommendations to the Legislature on actions needed to resolve any delays or barriers to connecting new resources. The most recent Joint Reliability Planning Assessment, the first quarterly report for 2026, was issued on May 8<sup>th</sup> and is based on data available through October 1, 2025, and is combined with the SB 1020 Annual Report.

## **Comments**

*Need for this bill.* According to the author:

Our grid is under stress, especially as the impacts of climate change hit sooner than expected. And while California is strongly committed to accelerating clean energy deployment, it has yet to tackle plans for achieving a truly zero carbon, reliable electricity grid. In fact, in just the past few months several of our state agencies responsible for grid reliability have opted for extending the life of once through cooled power plants to address emergency energy demand, and increasing natural gas storage at the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas storage facility. In order for the state to meet its clean energy and reliability goals, it needs to add more transparency and better energy forecasting and planning. Tracking

the progress and impediments to meeting our state energy goals should not be buried in multiple links and online reports but accessible through a user friendly dashboard charter both progress and shortcomings in order for both state and public/private partners to find the best solutions to improve our grid reliance and decarbonization.

This bill requires additional information in the quarterly report, including: the status of transmission upgrades and electrical grid infrastructure capacity, CPUC approvals of applications for utility certificates of public convenience and necessity and permits to construct utility and independent projects. The CEC notes extensive work that would be needed to gather information on transmission upgrades and electric grid capacity, conduct additional analysis, and write new sections of the report. The quarterly report has routinely been delayed. The required new information proposed by this bill may result in further delays for future reports.

### **Prior/Related Legislation**

SB 846 (Dodd, Chapter 239, Statutes of 2022) authorized a five-year extension of the operations of the DCP, among other provisions includes a requirement for a quarterly Joint Reliability Planning Assessment.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing costs of less than \$240,000 annually (Energy Resource Program Account [ERPA] or General Fund) for the California Energy Commission (CEC) to gather the expanded information on transmission upgrades, grid capacity, and as required by this bill. The CEC would need to synthesize the information into the broader context of energy reliability, perform analysis including potential model improvements, and write new sections of the Joint Quarterly Reliability Planning Assessments. The CEC notes that ERPA often experiences structural shortfall and may not be an appropriate fund source to support implementation of this bill.
- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) anticipate any costs would be minor and absorbable.

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 5/14/26)

Tri County Chamber Alliance

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 5/14/26)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the Tri-County Chamber Alliance representing the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura, states:

Energy reliability is fundamental to business continuity. Power outages and grid instability cost businesses in our region millions of dollars in lost productivity, equipment damage, and supply chain disruptions. As California accelerates its clean energy transition, robust reliability planning is essential to ensure businesses are not left without the power they need to operate and grow. TCCA [Tri-County Chamber Alliance] supports SB 1158 because it prioritizes grid reliability, supports business continuity, and ensures energy planning keeps pace with the demands of a growing electrifying economy.

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5/18/26 15:21:11

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