

Date of Hearing: June 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND ENERGY

Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair

SB 1158 (Stern) – As Amended May 14, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Energy: reliability planning assessment

SUMMARY: Requires additional information to be included in the quarterly Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessment. Specifically, this bill requires the assessment to 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.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires the 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))

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill would result in ongoing costs of less than \$240,000 annually for the CEC to collect and analyze additional information related to transmission upgrades and grid capacity and to incorporate that information into the Joint Quarterly Reliability Planning Assessments. The CPUC and DWR anticipate any implementation costs would be minor and absorbable.

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 required the California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to prepare and submit quarterly Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessments to the Legislature beginning on December 15, 2022. The assessments are required to provide specified information regarding forecasted electricity supply and demand, loads and resources within the California Independent System Operator's balancing authority area and transmission access charge areas, imports and transmission capacity, the interconnection status of renewable energy projects, and expected retirements of system and local resources. The assessments must also identify delays or barriers affecting the timely deployment of new resources and recommend actions the Legislature could take to address those barriers. Furthermore, the assessments must provide recommendations to

the Legislature on actions needed to address identified delays and barriers to connecting new resources. The most recent Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessment, the first quarterly report for 2026, was issued on May 8, 2026, is based on data available through October 1, 2025, and was combined with the annual reliability report required by SB 1020 (Laird, Chapter 361, Statutes of 2022).

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Author's Statement.* According to the author, "While California is leading the transition to clean energy, balancing the electrical grid and maintaining reliability without an ongoing reliance on polluting power plants remains a challenge. State energy planning has not evaluated in depth how to replace aging, polluting fossil fuel power plants with clean energy while maintaining grid and local reliability. SB 1158 will help inform grid planning and reliability by requiring the Joint Reliability Planning Assessment to include additional information on the status of energy projects specifically: approvals of applications for electrical grid infrastructure projects and the status of transmission upgrades and grid infrastructure capacity. These important additions increase planning transparency for policy makers, the public, and energy project developers."
- 2) *This Bill.* SB 1158 would expand the information required in the quarterly Joint Agency Reliability Planning Assessment. Specifically, the bill requires reporting on the status of transmission upgrades, electrical grid infrastructure capacity, and CPUC approvals of certificates of public convenience and necessity and permits to construct for utility and independent projects. This information could provide the Legislature with additional visibility into the development of energy infrastructure and potential constraints affecting reliability. However, the CEC notes that gathering this information would require additional data collection, analysis, and reporting. Given that the quarterly assessments have routinely been issued after their statutory deadlines, the additional reporting requirements may affect the timeliness of future reports.
- 3) *Prior Legislation.*

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

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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