

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

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

Policy Committee: Utilities and Energy

Vote: 17 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill adds to information the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) must include in their assessment of estimates of electrical supply and demand balance that existing statute requires the agencies to submit to the Legislature each quarter.

Specifically, this bill requires the quarterly assessment, known as the joint Reliability Planning Assessment, additionally include prospective information on the status of (1) utility transmission upgrades and electrical grid infrastructure capacity and (2) approvals by the CPUC of applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCNs) and permits to construct utility and independent projects.

FISCAL EFFECT:

This bill creates additional work for both the CEC and the CPUC. The CEC anticipates needing an additional program specialist, at an annual cost of \$241,000 (Energy Resources Programs Account (ERPA)), whereas the CPUC concludes it could absorb any additional workload with existing resources.

COMMENTS:

Existing law requires the CEC and CPUC to submit quarterly to the Legislature what statute refers to as the Joint Reliability Planning Assessment. Statute states each assessment is to identify estimates for the electrical supply and demand balance, for the forward 5- and 10-year periods, under high-, medium-, and low-risk scenarios and is to identify loads (demand for electricity) and resources online and loads and resources expected by each reliability year ending September 30, mainly with a focus on the system managed by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) with an emphasis on the electrical demand, load, supply or resources for load-serving entities subject to the CPUC's jurisdiction. Statute specifies information the agencies are to provide in the assessment, including, among other things, (1) prospective information on existing and expected resources, including updates on the interconnection status for renewable projects and any delays in interconnection, and (2) expected retirements for both system and local resources.

This bill, as summarized above, requires each assessment to also include prospective information on the status of (1) utility transmission upgrades and electrical grid infrastructure capacity and (2) approvals by the CPUC of applications for certificates of CPCNs (a permit to construct

public infrastructure, such as electrical wires) and permits to construct utility and independent projects. According to the author, including such information in the agencies' quarterly assessments "will help inform grid planning and reliability" and "increase planning transparency for policy makers, the public, and energy project developers."

The committee is unaware of support for or opposition to this bill.

Analysis Prepared by: Jay Dickenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081