

SENATE THIRD READING

SB 1158 (Stern)

As Amended May 14, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

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

- 1) The status of utility transmission upgrades and electrical grid infrastructure capacity;
- 2) California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approvals of applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity and permits to construct utility and independent projects.

Major Provisions**COMMENTS**

Expanded Joint Reliability Planning Assessment. Existing law requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) and CPUC to submit quarterly Joint Reliability Planning Assessments to the Legislature evaluating the state's five- and ten-year electricity supply and demand outlook under a range of reliability scenarios. The assessments currently include information on existing and expected energy resources, renewable project interconnection status, and anticipated resource retirements. This bill builds on these existing reporting requirements by requiring the agencies to also report on the status of transmission upgrades, electrical grid infrastructure capacity, and CPUC approvals of certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCNs) and permits to construct for utility and independent projects. In doing so, the bill could provide the Legislature with additional visibility into energy infrastructure development and potential reliability constraints. However, the CEC notes that the additional reporting requirements could further affect the timeliness of the quarterly assessments.

According to the Author

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."

Arguments in Support

This bill is supported by the Tri-County Chamber Alliance (TCCA), which represent chambers of commerce and business organizations across Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. They contend that regular reliability assessments will help identify potential grid risks associated with extreme weather, increasing electrification, and the retirement of firm generation

before they result in reliability problems. TCCA also argues that this bill would help ensure that reliability planning keeps pace with California's growing and increasingly electrified economy.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill creates additional workload for both the CEC and the CPUC. The CEC estimates it will require one additional Program Specialist at an annual cost of approximately \$241,000 from the Energy Resources Programs Account (ERPA), while the CPUC indicates it can absorb the additional workload within existing resources.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 37-0-3**

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNERney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Dahle, Gonzalez, Niello

ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 17-0-1

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Patterson

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-1-0

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

NO: Tangipa

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Lina V. Malova / U. & E. / (916) 319-2083

FN: 0003480