

# HB0401S01 compared with HB0401

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0401 but was omitted in HB0401S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0401 but was inserted into HB0401S01

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1

**Geothermal Study Amendments**  
2026 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Christine F. Watkins**  
Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins



2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill directs ~~{the Office of Energy Development}~~ Utah State University to conduct a study  
6 ~~{to examine}~~ on the ~~{feasibility}~~ geological and environmental impacts of ~~{developing}~~ geothermal  
7 energy ~~{facilities at or near existing coal-powered electrical generation facilities}~~ development.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

- 10 ▶ directs ~~{the Office of Energy Development (office)}~~ Utah State University to conduct a study  
11 ~~{to examine}~~ on the ~~{feasibility of developing}~~ geological and environmental impacts of geothermal  
12 energy ~~{facilities at or near existing coal-powered electrical generation facilities}~~ development in the  
13 state;
- 13 ▶ requires ~~{the office}~~ Utah State University to report ~~{annually on or before the November~~  
14 ~~interim meeting}~~ findings to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee; and
- 15 ▶ ~~{requires the office to publish the study on the office's website upon completion; and}~~
- 16 ▶ provides a repeal date.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

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15 None

16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17 None

18 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

19 AMENDS:

20 **63I-2-279** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 258

21 ENACTS:

22 **79-6-410** , Utah Code Annotated 1953

23

24 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

25 Section 1. Section **63I-2-279** is amended to read:

26 **63I-2-279. Repeal dates: Title 79.**

30 (1) Section 79-2-407, Study of funding for water infrastructure costs, is repealed July 1, 2025.

32 (2) Subsection 79-4-1002(2), regarding a pilot program for veteran free admission to state parks, is repealed July 1, 2025.

34 (3) Section 79-6-410, Geothermal energy facilities study, is repealed July 1, 2028.

35 [(3)] (4) Title 79, Chapter 6, Part 14, Energy Project Assessment, is repealed January 1, 2028.

34 Section 2. Section **2** is enacted to read:

35 **79-6-410. Geothermal energy facilities study.**

39 (1) As used in this section, "coal-powered electrical generation facility site" means a location in the state where a facility that generates electricity using coal as a primary fuel source:

42 (a) is currently operating; or

43 (b) has ceased operations but retains existing infrastructure suitable for energy generation purposes.

42 (2) On or before October 31, 2027, Utah State University shall conduct a study on the geological and environmental impacts of geothermal energy development in the state, which shall include:

45 (a) an assessment of subsurface geological conditions and the interactions with geothermal energy development activities;

47 (b) an evaluation of geothermal energy development techniques and the relative impacts on surrounding geological and environmental conditions;

45 (2){(c)} {On or before December 31, 2027, the office shall work with the Utah Geological Survey to conduct a study to examine the feasibility } an assessment of the geological and environmental

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impacts of ~~{developing}~~ geothermal energy ~~{facilities}~~ development at or near coal-powered electrical generation facility sites ~~{in the state.}~~ ; and

48 ~~{(3) {The study described in Subsection (2) shall include, for each coal-powered electrical generation facility site:}}~~

50 ~~{(a) {an assessment of:}}~~

51 ~~{(i) {subsurface temperatures;}}~~

52 ~~Ĥ → {(ii) steam quality;}}~~

53 ~~{(iii) {(ii)} ← Ĥ {potential electricity production;}}~~

54 ~~Ĥ → {(iv) {(iii)} ← Ĥ {infrastructure suitability;}}~~

55 ~~Ĥ → {(v) {(iv)} ← Ĥ {estimated capital costs; and}}~~

56 ~~Ĥ → {(vi) {(v)} ← Ĥ {economic and job impacts; and}}~~

57 (b) ~~{(d)}~~ recommendations for geothermal energy ~~{system}~~ development practices that minimize geological and environmental impacts.

58 ~~{(4) {The office shall publish the study on the office's website upon completion.}}~~

59 (5) ~~{(3)}~~ {The office} Upon completion of the study described in Subsection (2), Utah State University shall report {annually} the findings on or before the November interim meeting to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee {regarding the status of the study}.

56 Section 3. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

3-5-26 10:43 AM