

ENERGY POLICY AMENDMENTS

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Roger E. Barrus

Senate Sponsor: Gregory S. Bell

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10	David N. Cox	Fred R. Hunsaker	Richard W. Wheeler
11	Margaret Dayton	Bradley T. Johnson	Larry B. Wiley
12	Carl W. Duckworth		

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill establishes the position of governor's energy advisor and an energy policy.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ establishes the position of governor's energy advisor;
- ▶ outlines the governor's energy advisor's powers and duties;
- ▶ requires the governor's energy advisor to submit certain reports;
- ▶ declares the state's energy policy; and
- ▶ requires legislative committees to review and propose updates to the energy policy

annually.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

- 32           **63-53b-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 33           **63-53b-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 34           **63-53b-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 35           **63-53b-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 36           **63-53b-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 37           **63-53b-301**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 38           **63-53b-302**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

41           Section 1. Section **63-53b-101** is enacted to read:

42                                   **CHAPTER 53b. UTAH ENERGY ACT**

43                                   **Part 1. General Provisions**

44           **63-53b-101. Title.**

45           This chapter is known as the "Utah Energy Act."

46           Section 2. Section **63-53b-102** is enacted to read:

47           **63-53b-102. Definitions.**

48           As used in this chapter, "state agency" means an executive branch:

49           (1) department;

50           (2) agency;

51           (3) board;

52           (4) commission;

53           (5) division; or

54           (6) state educational institution.

55           Section 3. Section **63-53b-201** is enacted to read:

56                                   **Part 2. Governor's Energy Advisor**

57           **63-53b-201. Governor's energy advisor -- Duties.**

58           (1) (a) The governor shall appoint an energy advisor.

59           (b) The governor's energy advisor serves at the pleasure of the governor.

- 60           (2) The governor's energy advisor shall:  
61           (a) advise the governor on energy-related matters;  
62           (b) annually review and propose updates to the state's energy policy, as contained in  
63 Section 63-53b-301;  
64           (c) promote as the governor's energy advisor considers necessary:  
65           (i) the development of cost-effective energy resources both renewable and  
66 nonrenewable; and  
67           (ii) educational programs, including programs supporting conservation and energy  
68 efficiency measures;  
69           (d) coordinate across state agencies to assure consistency with state energy policy,  
70 including:  
71           (i) working with the State Energy Program to promote access to federal assistance for  
72 energy-related projects for state agencies and members of the public;  
73           (ii) working with the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security to assist  
74 the governor in carrying out the governor's energy emergency powers under Title 63, Chapter  
75 53a, Energy Emergency Powers of Governor;  
76           (iii) participating in the annual review of the energy emergency plan and the  
77 maintenance of the energy emergency plan and a current list of contact persons required by  
78 Section 53-2-110; and  
79           (iv) identifying and proposing measures necessary to facilitate low-income consumers'  
80 access to energy services;  
81           (e) coordinate with the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security  
82 ongoing activities designed to test an energy emergency plan to ensure coordination and  
83 information sharing among state agencies and political subdivisions in the state, public utilities  
84 and other energy suppliers, and other relevant public sector persons as required by Sections  
85 53-2-110, 63-53a-3, 63-53a-7, and 63-53a-8;  
86           (f) coordinate with requisite state agencies to study:  
87           (i) the creation of a centralized state repository for energy-related information;

88 (ii) methods for streamlining state review and approval processes for energy-related  
89 projects; and

90 (iii) the development of multistate energy transmission and transportation  
91 infrastructure;

92 (g) coordinate energy-related regulatory processes within the state;

93 (h) compile, and make available to the public, information about federal, state, and  
94 local approval requirements for energy-related projects;

95 (i) act as the state's advocate before federal and local authorities for energy-related  
96 infrastructure projects or coordinate with the appropriate state agency; and

97 (j) help promote the Division of Facilities Construction and Management's measures to  
98 improve energy efficiency in state buildings.

99 Section 4. Section **63-53b-202** is enacted to read:

100 **63-53b-202. Agency cooperation.**

101 A state agency shall provide the state energy officer with any energy-related  
102 information requested by the governor's energy advisor if the governor's energy advisor's  
103 request is consistent with other law.

104 Section 5. Section **63-53b-203** is enacted to read:

105 **63-53b-203. Reports.**

106 (1) The governor's energy advisor shall report annually to:

107 (a) the governor;

108 (b) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and

109 (c) the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee.

110 (2) The report required in Subsection (1) shall:

111 (a) summarize the status and development of the state's energy resources;

112 (b) address the governor's energy advisor's activities under this part; and

113 (c) recommend any energy-related executive or legislative action the governor's energy  
114 advisor considers beneficial to the state, including updates to the state energy policy under  
115 Section 63-53b-301.

116 Section 6. Section **63-53b-301** is enacted to read:

117 **Part 3. State Energy Policy**

118 **63-53b-301. State energy policy.**

119 (1) It is the policy of the state that:

120 (a) Utah have adequate, reliable, affordable, sustainable, and clean energy resources;

121 (b) Utah will promote the development of:

122 (i) nonrenewable energy resources, including natural gas, coal, oil, oil shale, and tar  
123 sands; and

124 (ii) renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar, wind, biomass, biodiesel,  
125 and ethanol;

126 (c) Utah will promote the study of nuclear power generation;

127 (d) Utah will promote the development of resources and infrastructure sufficient to  
128 meet the state's growing demand, while contributing to the regional and national energy supply,  
129 thus reducing dependence on international energy sources;

130 (e) Utah will allow market forces to drive prudent use of energy resources, although  
131 incentives and other methods may be used to ensure the state's optimal development and use of  
132 energy resources in the short- and long-term;

133 (f) Utah will pursue energy conservation, energy efficiency, and environmental quality;

134 (g) (i) state regulatory processes should be streamlined to balance economic costs with  
135 the level of review necessary to ensure protection of the state's various interests; and

136 (ii) where federal action is required, Utah will encourage expedited federal action and  
137 will collaborate with federal agencies to expedite review; and

138 (h) Utah will maintain an environment that provides for stable consumer prices that are  
139 as low as possible while providing producers and suppliers a fair return on investment,  
140 recognizing that:

141 (i) economic prosperity is linked to the availability, reliability, and affordability of  
142 consumer energy supplies; and

143 (ii) investment will occur only when adequate financial returns can be realized.

144           (2) State agencies are encouraged to conduct agency activities consistent with  
145 Subsection (1).

146           (3) A person may not file suit to challenge a state agency's action that is inconsistent  
147 with Subsection (1).

148           Section 7. Section **63-53b-302** is enacted to read:

149           **63-53b-302. Legislative committee review.**

150           The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee and the  
151 Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee shall review the state energy policy  
152 annually and propose any changes to the Legislature.