JOINT RESOLUTION TO HARDEN THE UTAH AND
UNITED STATES ELECTRICAL GRIDS
2019 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor:  Lee B. Perry
Senate Sponsor:  Lincoln Fillmore

LONG TITLE

General Description:
This joint resolution of the Legislature encourages Utah's state and congressional
del Ogations to continue supporting legislation and practices that enhance electrical grid
security against natural, accidental, or intentional occurrences, including disruption
from electromagnetic pulses, that could potentially interrupt reliable electricity services.

Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:
- acknowledges safeguarding Utah's electrical infrastructure as a shared function of
the federal and state government;
- acknowledges the threats to Utah's and the United States' electrical grids from
natural, accidental, and intentional occurrences, such as disruption from
electromagnetic pulses, that could potentially interrupt reliable electricity services;
- references government-commissioned studies that illustrate the capabilities and
consequences of such occurrences on civil society; and
- supports Utah's continued investment in public policy, technologies, and federal
regulatory drills and standards that promote a resilient and reliable electrical grid
and will ultimately contribute to the economic development of the state and
well-being of all Utahns.

Special Clauses:
None
Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, protecting our electrical infrastructure is a vital function of the federal and state governments benefitting all citizens;

WHEREAS, Utah Code Section 63M-4-301, State Energy Policy, instructs that Utah shall have adequate, reliable, affordable, sustainable, and clean energy resources;

WHEREAS, pro-actively supporting the importance of a resilient and reliable electrical grid is congruent with Utah's State Energy Policy;

WHEREAS, the United States' electrical infrastructure is vulnerable to damage from natural, accidental, and intentional occurrences, including electromagnetic pulses, that could potentially interrupt reliable electricity services;

WHEREAS, studies commissioned by the United States Task Force on National and Homeland Security, the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the National Conference of State Legislatures have found that cyberterrorist and physical terrorist attacks could potentially produce electromagnetic interference;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned studies also point to the grave consequences that such interference could have for civil society;

WHEREAS, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, as designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, regularly proposes mandatory and enforceable reliability standards for physical and cybersecurity for critical electrical infrastructure protection;

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy has been given the authority pursuant to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-94, to order electric utilities and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation to implement emergency security actions;

WHEREAS, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation organizes a two-day security exercise, GridEx, every two years to test the electricity sector's ability to respond to grid security emergencies caused by cyber and physical attacks; and

WHEREAS, continued participation in grid security exercises, updates to security
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standards, and investment in technologies that enhance the resiliency and reliability of Utah's electrical infrastructure are likely to attract businesses and industries that wish to safeguard their data, enhancing Utah's economy:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah calls upon its congressional and state delegations to ensure state and national participation and support of the next GridEx drill in 2019, be informed and ready to implement North American Electric Reliability Corporation reliability standards when they are released or updated, and encourage electric utilities operating in Utah to be prepared to upgrade or replace infrastructure in order to safeguard against natural, accidental, or intentional occurrences, such as electromagnetic pulses, that could potentially interrupt reliable electricity services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of Utah's congressional delegation requesting their support of hardening the electrical grids of Utah and the United States.