

1 **STATE ENERGY POLICY AMENDMENTS**

2 2021 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**

5 Senate Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill amends the state energy policy.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

12 ▶ amends the state energy policy to include a policy of developing energy resources
13 with the intent to:

14 • promote the development of pumped storage and advanced energy systems
15 including hydrogen;

16 • respond to disruptions in state energy resources; and

17 • maintain reserves in case of disruptions.

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

19 None

20 **Other Special Clauses:**

21 None

22 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

23 AMENDS:

24 **63M-4-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 415

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

27 Section 1. Section **63M-4-301** is amended to read:

28 **63M-4-301. State energy policy.**

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

30 (a) Utah shall have adequate, reliable, affordable, sustainable, and clean energy
31 resources;

32 (b) Utah will promote the development of:

33 (i) nonrenewable energy resources, including natural gas, coal, oil, oil shale, and oil
34 sands;

35 (ii) renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar, wind, biomass, biofuel,
36 and hydroelectric;

37 (iii) nuclear power generation technologies certified for use by the United States
38 Nuclear Regulatory Commission including molten salt reactors producing medical isotopes;

39 (iv) alternative transportation fuels and technologies;

40 (v) infrastructure to facilitate energy development, diversified modes of transportation,
41 greater access to domestic and international markets for Utah's resources, and advanced
42 transmission systems;

43 (vi) energy storage, pumped storage, and other advanced energy systems, including
44 hydrogen from all sources; ~~and~~

45 (vii) electricity systems that can be controlled at the request of grid operators to meet
46 system load demands, to ensure an adequate supply of dispatchable energy generation
47 resources; and

48 [~~vii~~] (viii) increased refinery capacity;

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

52 (d) Utah will promote the development of resources, tools, and infrastructure to
53 enhance the state's ability to:

54 (i) respond effectively to significant disruptions to the state's energy generation, energy
55 delivery systems, or fuel supplies; and

56 (ii) maintain adequate supply, including reserves of proven and cost-effective
57 dispatchable electricity reserves to meet grid demand;

58 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Utah will allow market forces to drive prudent use of energy resources,
59 although incentives and other methods may be used to ensure the state's optimal development
60 and use of energy resources in the short- and long-term;

61 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) Utah will pursue energy conservation, energy efficiency, and environmental
62 quality;

63 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) (i) state regulatory processes should be streamlined to balance economic costs
64 with the level of review necessary to ensure protection of the state's various interests; and

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

67 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) Utah will maintain an environment that provides for stable consumer prices
68 that are as low as possible while providing producers and suppliers a fair return on investment,
69 recognizing that:

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

72 (ii) investment will occur only when adequate financial returns can be realized; and

73 ~~[(h)]~~ (i) Utah will promote training and education programs focused on developing a
74 comprehensive understanding of energy, including:

75 (i) programs addressing:

76 (A) energy conservation;

77 (B) energy efficiency;

78 (C) supply and demand; and

79 (D) energy related workforce development; and

80 (ii) energy education programs in grades K-12.

81 (2) State agencies are encouraged to conduct agency activities consistent with

82 Subsection (1).

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