

STATE ENERGY POLICY AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

Senate Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the state energy policy.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

► amends the state energy policy to include a policy of developing energy resources with the intent to:

- respond to disruptions in state energy systems; and
- maintain reserves of energy generation in case of disruptions.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

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

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

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

63M-4-301. State energy policy.

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



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

30 (b) Utah will promote the development of:

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

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

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

37 (iv) alternative transportation fuels and technologies;

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

41 (vi) energy storage and other advanced energy systems; and

42 (vii) increased refinery capacity;

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

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

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

50 (ii) maintain adequate reserves of proven base load electricity generation to meet grid
51 demand;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

69 (i) programs addressing:

70 (A) energy conservation;

71 (B) energy efficiency;

72 (C) supply and demand; and

73 (D) energy related workforce development; and

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

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

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