

# SB0257S01 compared with SB0257

~~{deleted text}~~ shows text that was in SB0257 but was deleted in SB0257S01.

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0257 but was inserted into SB0257S01.

**DISCLAIMER:** This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

Senator Nate Blouin proposes the following substitute bill:

## GEOTHERMAL ENERGY PRODUCTION AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Nate Blouin**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### LONG TITLE

#### General Description:

This bill ~~{enacts provisions related to the development and use}~~ authorizes a study of geothermal energy ~~{resources in the state}~~.

#### Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

~~{~~ → defines terms;

‣ requires the ~~{Office of Energy Development to conduct a geothermal resources study; and~~

→ ~~creates the Utah Geothermal Task Force}~~ Unified Economic Opportunity Commission to conduct a study regarding geothermal energy and report the results to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.

#### Money Appropriated in this Bill:

## SB0257S01 compared with SB0257

None

### Other Special Clauses:

None

### Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

~~{63I-1-279}~~63N-1a-202, as last amended by Laws of Utah ~~{2023, Chapter 211~~  
~~79-6-102~~, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 280

ENACTS:

~~79-6-404~~, Utah Code Annotated 1953

~~79-6-1001~~, Utah Code Annotated 1953

~~{~~2022, Chapters 200, 362

---

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

Section 1. Section ~~{63I-1-279}~~63N-1a-202 is amended to read:

~~{~~63I-1-279. Repeal dates: Title 79:

~~———— (1) Subsection 79-2-201(2)(p), related to the Heritage Trees Advisory Committee, is repealed July 1, 2026.~~

~~———— (2) Subsection 79-2-201(2)(q), related to the Utah Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Advisory Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.~~

~~———— (3) Subsection 79-2-201(2)(r)(i), related to an advisory council created by the Division of Outdoor Recreation to advise on boating policies, is repealed July 1, 2024.~~

~~———— (4) Subsection 79-2-201(2)(s), related to the Wildlife Board Nominating Committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.~~

~~———— (5) Subsection 79-2-201(2)(t), related to regional advisory councils for the Wildlife Board, is repealed July 1, 2028.~~

~~———— (6) Section 79-7-206, creating the Utah Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Advisory Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.~~

~~———— (7) Title 79, Chapter 8, Part 4, Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Grant Program, is repealed January 1, 2028.~~

~~———— (8) Section 79-6-1001, creating the Utah Geothermal Task Force, is repealed July 1, 2029.~~

## SB0257S01 compared with SB0257

### ‡ 63N-1a-202. Commission duties.

(1) The commission shall:

(a) develop, coordinate, and lead a comprehensive statewide economic development strategy that:

(i) unifies and coordinates economic development efforts in the state;

(ii) includes key performance indicators for long-term progress toward the state strategic goals;

(iii) establishes reporting and accountability processes for the key performance indicators; and

(iv) ensures the success of the statewide economic development strategy is shared among the urban and rural areas of the state;

(b) receive feedback, input, and reports from economic opportunity agencies regarding programs related to the statewide economic development strategy;

(c) develop the statewide economic strategy in view of the state water policy described in Section 73-1-21, including the state's commitment to appropriate conservation, efficient and optimal use of water resources, infrastructure development and improvement, optimal agricultural use, water quality, reasonable access to recreational activities, effective wastewater treatment, and protecting and restoring healthy ecosystems;

(d) direct and facilitate changes to or recommend elimination of economic development programs to ensure alignment with the mission and vision described in Section 63N-1a-103;

(e) at least once every five years, identify which industries or groups of industries shall be targeted for economic development in the state;

(f) establish strategies for the recruitment and retention of targeted industries while respecting the different needs of rural and urban areas throughout the state;

(g) establish strategies for supporting entrepreneurship and small business development in the state;

(h) analyze the state's projected long-term population and economic growth and plan for the anticipated impacts of the projected growth in a manner that improves quality of life and is consistent with the statewide economic development strategy and state strategic goals;

(i) identify gaps and potential solutions related to improving infrastructure, especially

## SB0257S01 compared with SB0257

as related to the state's projected long-term population growth;

(j) support the development of a prepared workforce that can support targeted industries identified by the commission;

(k) coordinate and develop strategies that assist education providers and industry to cooperate in supporting students in developing market relevant skills to meet industry needs;

(l) develop strategies and plans to ensure comprehensive economic development efforts are targeted to the unique needs of rural areas of the state;

(m) study the unique needs of multicultural communities throughout the state and develop household-level plans to ensure residents of the state can participate in economic opportunities in the state;

(n) ensure the commission's efforts are, to the extent practicable, data-driven and evidence-based;

(o) support an integrated international trade strategy for the state;

(p) facilitate coordination among public, private, and nonprofit economic opportunity agencies; ~~and~~

(q) in performing the commission's duties, consider the recommendations of the subcommittees described in Chapter 1b, Commission Subcommittees, the GO Utah board, the talent board, and any working groups established under Subsection (2)~~[-]; and~~

(r) conduct a study on accelerating geothermal energy development in the state covering geological assessments, costs and data needs, workforce readiness, regulatory issues, electric utility integration, available incentives, and recommendations for additional incentives and integration.

(2) The commission may establish working groups as is deemed appropriate to assist and advise the commission on specified topics or issues related to the commission's duties.

(3) The commission shall provide a report to the office for inclusion in the office's annual written report described in Section 63N-1a-306, that includes:

(a) the statewide economic development strategy;

(b) a description of how the commission fulfilled the commission's statutory purposes and duties during the year, including any relevant findings;

(c) the key performance indicators included in the statewide economic development strategy, including data showing the extent to which the indicators are being met; and

## SB0257S01 compared with SB0257

(d) any legislative recommendations.

~~{Section 2. Section 79-6-102 is amended to read:~~

~~79-6-102. Definitions:~~

~~As used in this chapter:~~

~~(1) "Appointing authority" means:~~

~~(a) on and before June 30, 2029, the governor; and~~

~~(b) on and after July 1, 2029, the executive director.~~

~~(2) "Electrical corporation" means the same as that term is defined in Section 54-2-1.~~

~~[(2)] (3) (a) On and before June 30, 2029, "energy advisor" means the governor's energy advisor appointed under Section 79-6-401.~~

~~(b) On and after July 1, 2029, "energy advisor" means the energy advisor appointed by the executive director under Section 79-6-401.~~

~~[(3)] (4) "Office" means the Office of Energy Development created in Section 79-6-401.~~

~~[(4)] (5) "State agency" means an executive branch:~~

~~(a) department;~~

~~(b) agency;~~

~~(c) board;~~

~~(d) commission;~~

~~(e) division; or~~

~~(f) state educational institution.~~

~~Section 3. Section 79-6-404 is enacted to read:~~

~~79-6-404. Geothermal resources study required:~~

~~(1) The office shall conduct a study that includes:~~

~~(a) a thorough geological survey of current estimates of Utah's geothermal resources;~~

~~(b) identification of challenges, cross-industry overlap, costs, well-data capture, environmental impacts, and regulatory hurdles associated with accelerating geothermal energy development for electric utility use;~~

~~(c) opportunities for integration of geothermal energy into electric utility portfolios;~~

~~(d) areas of workforce development needed for geothermal energy development;~~

~~(e) identification of resources available, including tax credits, tax exemptions, and~~

## SB0257S01 compared with SB0257

~~direct financial assistance from loans, grants, or investments;~~

~~—— (f) recommendations for additional or better targeted incentives, including tax credits, tax exemptions, and other incentives; and~~

~~—— (g) recommendations for accelerating the incorporation of geothermal resources into electric utility portfolios;~~

~~—— (2) In conducting the study, the office shall consult with state agencies and relevant stakeholders and may contract with a third party;~~

~~—— (3) On or before November 30, 2025, the office shall report findings and recommendations from the study to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee;~~

~~—— Section 4. Section ~~79-6-1001~~ is enacted to read:~~

~~—— **79-6-1001. Utah Geothermal Taskforce:**~~

~~—— (1) There is created within the office the Utah Geothermal Task Force consisting of the following 13 members:~~

~~—— (a) the director of the office, or the director's designee;~~

~~—— (b) each of the following, appointed by the office:~~

~~—— (i) one representative from a electrical corporation;~~

~~—— (ii) one representative from the geothermal energy industry;~~

~~—— (iii) one representative from the drilling and fracturing industry;~~

~~—— (iv) one representative from a public interest group with experience in energy and environmental advocacy;~~

~~—— (v) one representative from organized labor~~

~~—— (vi) one subsurface geologist;~~

~~—— (vii) one reservoir engineer; and~~

~~—— (viii) one project financing expert;~~

~~—— (c) one representative from the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;~~

~~—— (d) one representative from the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate;~~

~~—— (e) one representative from the Division of Water Rights appointed by the director of the Division of Water Rights; and~~

~~—— (f) one representative from the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining appointed by the~~

## SB0257S01 compared with SB0257

~~director of the Division of Oil and Gas:~~

~~—— (2) The task force shall:~~

~~—— (a) meet at least bi-monthly each calendar year;~~

~~—— (b) review findings from the office's geothermal resources study conducted pursuant to Section 79-6-404;~~

~~—— (c) analyze geological data related to Utah's geothermal resources; and~~

~~—— (d) make recommendations to the office related to accelerating geothermal energy usage by electrical corporation, including recommendations on training programs, pilot projects, and financial incentives;~~

~~—— (3) The task force shall report annually on or before November 30, } (4) The commission shall provide a report to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee on {the task force's activities and recommendations;~~

~~—— Section 5} or before November 30, 2024, providing the results of the study conducted under Subsection (1)(r).~~

Section 2. Effective date.

This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.