

HOUSE BILL 426

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY; TASKING THE NEW MEXICO RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY WITH STUDYING AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE IN THE STATE; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE STUDY.--

A. The New Mexico renewable energy transmission authority shall:

(1) assess the adequacy of the transmission pathways in the state to support future renewable energy generation and storage over the next ten years;

(2) contract with Sandia national laboratories to use the laboratories' computational tools and data for

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1 valuation, sizing and placement of large wind and solar energy
2 generation and storage plants; and

3 (3) analyze and evaluate the adequacy of New
4 Mexico's transmission network to transmit the electricity
5 produced by future renewable energy sources to loads within the
6 state and elsewhere.

7 B. By March 1, 2020, the New Mexico renewable
8 energy transmission authority shall conclude the assessment and
9 prepare a report that includes:

10 (1) the size and location of new wind and
11 solar plants projected to be built over the next ten years;

12 (2) the size and location of short- and long-
13 duration energy storage needed to support the projected wind
14 and solar plants, assuming that:

15 (a) short-duration energy storage will
16 be used for network stability and longer-duration energy
17 storage of up to four hours will be used for time-shifting or
18 arbitrage purposes; and

19 (b) the goal is to maintain a stable
20 electric grid with high levels of renewable penetration up to
21 eighty percent of total generation capacity available in the
22 state in the planning horizon;

23 (3) the adequacy of the existing transmission
24 network to accommodate the growth of renewable electricity
25 generation in the next ten years; and

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1 (4) recommendations regarding the approximate
2 location, path and capacity of new transmission lines that will
3 need to be built to support future new renewable generation and
4 energy storage sources.

5 C. The report shall be made publicly available on
6 the New Mexico renewable energy transmission authority's web
7 page and transmitted to the governor and the interim
8 legislative committee that addresses energy issues.

9 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Three hundred thousand dollars
10 (\$300,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the New
11 Mexico renewable energy transmission authority for expenditure
12 in fiscal year 2020 to study, or contract for a study, and make
13 recommendations regarding renewable energy transmission
14 infrastructure and storage in the state. Any unexpended or
15 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020
16 shall revert to the general fund.