
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 295 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY COLEMAN, PENNYCUICK, ARGALL, FLYNN, VOGEL,
PHILLIPS-HILL, BROWN AND CULVER, MAY 29, 2024

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY 29, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission, along with the
2 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Department of
3 Community and Economic Development and the Department of
4 Environmental Protection, to conduct an assessment and
5 develop recommendations with the intention of establishing a
6 comprehensive State energy strategy for this Commonwealth.

7 WHEREAS, Electricity is a basic need, essential to every
8 resident, business and community in Pennsylvania; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's economy and ability to sustain a
10 competitive business environment and build strong communities
11 relies on affordable, reliable and resilient production,
12 transmission and delivery of electricity; and

13 WHEREAS, Businesses, communities and homeowners benefit from
14 and demand energy supply availability from a diverse portfolio
15 of resources to support the delivery of reliable electricity 24
16 hours per day, 7 days per week and 365 days per year; and

17 WHEREAS, Federal and State policies to integrate renewable
18 resources have spurred the rapid evolution of scalable
19 nonthermal energy resources regionally, in PJM Interconnection,
20 LLC (PJM), the regional transmission organization of which

1 Pennsylvania electric utilities are founding members; and
2 WHEREAS, As the PJM markets continue to integrate an
3 accelerated new resource mix, resource adequacy, generator
4 performance and supply reliability have been called into
5 question as a total of 40 gigawatts of reliable, dispatchable
6 generation are anticipated to be retired by 2030; and

7 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is the largest net exporter of
8 generation in PJM, and regional generation retirements, whether
9 driven by State policies within PJM, Federal policies or
10 economic factors, could result in a gap between the available
11 generation resources in PJM and the number of megawatts required
12 to meet regional system load; and

13 WHEREAS, The ability of PJM to maintain a robust, transparent
14 and nondiscriminatory wholesale market is essential to the
15 success of Pennsylvania's competitive electricity market; and

16 WHEREAS, PJM and its market rules are regulated by the
17 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); and

18 WHEREAS, Certain recent actions by FERC and PJM could lead to
19 higher costs to Pennsylvania consumers, jeopardize reliability
20 in the region and erode the benefits Pennsylvania has achieved
21 since the passage of the Electricity Generation Customer Choice
22 and Competition Act in 1996; and

23 WHEREAS, PJM and other electric grid operators, serving more
24 than 40% of the United States population in 35 states and the
25 District of Columbia, are calling on regulators to strengthen
26 natural gas networks and market rules to help prevent energy
27 emergencies related to weather conditions such as winter storms;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, National trade associations representing natural gas
30 suppliers and marketers, interstate natural gas pipelines and

1 competitive natural-gas-fired generators have proposed changes
2 in gas markets to mitigate the threat to continued supplies in
3 extreme weather; and

4 WHEREAS, PJM, like all regional transmission organizations,
5 is a voluntary organization and Pennsylvania's utilities can
6 leave PJM's markets if those markets are no longer supportive of
7 Pennsylvania's energy policies; and

8 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of this Commonwealth to
9 proactively evaluate the changing generation mix, both in
10 Pennsylvania and in PJM, and develop recommendations for a State
11 energy plan that ensures resource adequacy while also driving
12 economic development in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
14 Commission, in consultation with the Pennsylvania Public Utility
15 Commission, along with the Department of Community and Economic
16 Development and the Department of Environmental Protection, to
17 conduct an assessment and issue recommendations that can serve
18 as the basis for a comprehensive State energy strategy, which
19 shall include:

20 (1) An evaluation of Pennsylvania's electric utility
21 participation in PJM, including benefits, risks and costs to
22 the energy security of this Commonwealth.

23 (2) An evaluation of the options available to
24 Pennsylvania under current Federal law and PJM tariffs that
25 would allow Pennsylvania to remain in PJM without
26 compromising the Commonwealth's energy policy.

27 (3) An evaluation of the options available to
28 Pennsylvania if its utilities left PJM and the possible
29 benefits and consequences associated with such an action.

30 (4) An evaluation of Pennsylvania's advocacy efforts

1 before PJM and FERC to determine if they are sufficiently
2 advancing the Commonwealth's interests.

3 (5) An evaluation of Pennsylvania's options under State
4 law to secure a reliable supply of power for the
5 Commonwealth's consumers in the face of other states'
6 policies that reduce the available supply of power in the PJM
7 region.

8 (6) Identification of the need for new and existing
9 energy generation resources to serve current and expected
10 load growth in this Commonwealth, including future economic
11 development and growth in high-energy use sectors, such as
12 advanced manufacturing, health care and data centers.

13 (7) A review of Pennsylvania's current generation
14 capacity, the actual portfolio mixes from 5, 10 and 15 years
15 ago, and the forecasted change to the portfolio for 5, 10 and
16 15 years in the future.

17 (8) A review of the need for additional electrical
18 transmission and natural gas pipeline infrastructure, as well
19 as increased coordination between electric and natural gas
20 markets, to ensure adequate electric generation capacity in
21 this Commonwealth.

22 (9) A review of current State energy programs and
23 mandates in light of Federal energy policies, including the
24 act of October 15, 2008 (P.L.1592, No.129) (Act 129), and
25 recommendations of what should be created, eliminated or
26 modified to advance electricity resource adequacy,
27 reliability and affordability in this Commonwealth.

28 (10) Proposed actions that may be taken to enable the
29 commercialization and deployment of new generation
30 technologies to sustain and promote the availability of

1 generation resources required to meet customer demand in this
2 Commonwealth today and in the future, including carbon
3 capture and sequestration technologies, small modular nuclear
4 reactors, long duration energy storage solutions and
5 hydrogen.

6 (11) A review of alternative energy portfolio standards
7 mandates from Act 129, how they compare to our neighboring
8 states, and the impact that those mandates have had on
9 generation capacity in this Commonwealth and our neighbors to
10 include an analysis of baseload generation capacity.

11 (12) Consultation with Federal and other State agencies
12 as necessary, as well as PJM, academic institutions, business
13 and energy sector representatives and other relevant
14 stakeholders deemed by the Joint State Government Commission
15 as necessary to represent the diverse energy and economic
16 interests of this Commonwealth;

17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, on
19 behalf of itself, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,
20 the Department of Community and Economic Development and the
21 Department of Environmental Protection, submit its final report
22 no later than 12 months after the adoption of this resolution to
23 the following:

24 (1) The Governor.

25 (2) The chairperson of the Pennsylvania Public Utility
26 Commission.

27 (3) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development.

28 (4) The Secretary of Environmental Protection.

29 (5) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
30 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of

1 the Senate.

2 (6) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
3 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the Senate.

4 (7) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
5 Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee of
6 the House of Representatives.

7 (8) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
8 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the House of
9 Representatives.