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HOUSE BILL 329

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES; CREATING THE ENERGY AFFORDABILITY
AND GRID RELIABILITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING DUTIES; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] ENERGY AFFORDABILITY AND GRID
RELIABILITY COUNCIL CREATED--PURPOSE--MEMBERSHIP--PUBLIC
REGULATION COMMISSION TO STAFF.--

A. The "energy affordability and grid reliability
council" is created to:

(1) evaluate strategies to protect consumers
by maintaining affordable electric and natural gas utility
rates while ensuring prudent and timely investment in grid
modernization, reliability and resilience;

(2) examine options to support additional

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1 energy production, generation capacity and infrastructure
2 necessary to meet growing consumer demand and enhance economic
3 development opportunities, consistent with the Energy
4 Transition Act;

5 (3) assess regulatory, financing and planning
6 mechanisms that balance cost containment, reliability,
7 emissions reduction and long-term system sustainability;

8 (4) consider impacts on residential, rural,
9 tribal and small business customers;

10 (5) identify best practices from other states
11 addressing similar energy transition and demand growth
12 challenges; and

13 (6) develop legislative, regulatory or
14 administrative recommendations.

15 B. The council consists of the following members:

16 (1) one representative of the energy, minerals
17 and natural resources department, designated by the secretary
18 of energy, minerals and natural resources;

19 (2) one representative with expertise in
20 consumer or ratepayer advocacy, appointed by the governor;

21 (3) one representative with expertise in
22 electric or natural gas utility operations, generation,
23 transmission or distribution, appointed by the governor;

24 (4) one representative with expertise in
25 economic development or workforce impacts related to energy

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1 policy, appointed by the governor; and

2 (5) as advisory members, one representative
3 from each investor-owned utility in the state.

4 C. The governor shall appoint a chair and vice
5 chair of the council.

6 D. All members of the council serve at the pleasure
7 of the governor.

8 E. Public members of the council are entitled to
9 per diem and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage
10 Act and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or
11 allowance.

12 F. The council is administratively attached to the
13 public regulation commission. The commission shall staff the
14 council.

15 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two million dollars
16 (\$2,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
17 public regulation commission for expenditure in fiscal year
18 2027 to pay costs associated with the energy affordability and
19 grid reliability council. Any unexpended balance remaining at
20 the end of fiscal year 2027 shall revert to the general fund.

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