

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

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

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

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

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

(6) develop legislative, regulatory or administrative recommendations.

B. The council consists of the following members:

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

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

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

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

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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