

**LFC Requester:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Check all that apply:*  
**Original**     X  **Amendment**    \_\_\_\_\_  
**Correction**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Substitute**    \_\_\_\_\_

**Date**  2/2/2026   
**Bill No:**  HM 20

**Sponsor:** Matthew McQueen, Tara L.  
Lujan, Debra M. Sariñana,  
 Joanne J. Ferrary   
**Short**  Renewable Energy   
 Infrastructure Study Group

**Agency Name and Code**    EMNRD 521  
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

| Appropriation |      | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY27          | FY28 |                           |               |
| \$25,000      |      | Nonrecurring              | General Fund  |
|               |      |                           |               |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

| Estimated Revenue |      |      | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY27              | FY28 | FY29 |                           |               |
|                   |      |      |                           |               |
|                   |      |      |                           |               |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

|              | FY27    | FY28 | FY29 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|---------|------|------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total</b> | \$30-50 | --   | --   | \$30-50           | Nonrecurring              | General Fund  |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: None  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Memorial 20 requests that the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) direct the creation of a Renewable Energy Infrastructure Study Group to examine and develop recommendations for accelerating the review and deployment of community- and utility-scale renewable energy infrastructure in New Mexico.

To do this, the memorial instructs the study group to examine existing federal, state and local permitting requirements for renewable energy infrastructure; identify opportunities to streamline project reviews; improve clarity and predictability in permitting decisions through standardized guidelines and coordinated interagency processes; determine best practices for meaningful public participation without undue delays; evaluate benefits of joining a regional transmission organization (RTO); and facilitate interagency and stakeholder collaboration. The group must present findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committee on or before November 1, 2026.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HM 20 does not request an appropriation. However, EMNRD will incur operating costs to coordinate the study group, including staff time for meeting scheduling, facilitation, stakeholder coordination, and preparation of a comprehensive final report. Estimated costs are approximately \$30,000–\$50,000 in nonrecurring expenses for FY27.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

New Mexico faces a critical bottleneck in renewable energy infrastructure deployment, driven by permitting delays, regulatory complexity, interconnection constraints, and lack of coordinated interagency review processes. With electricity demand projected to increase 42 percent by 2040 and the state committed to zero-carbon electricity generation by 2045, accelerated deployment is essential to meet clean energy targets, serve growing load, and provide rate relief to ratepayers. The study group's focus on streamlining administrative, legislative, and judicial processes and evaluating potential regional transmission organization participation aligns with EMNRD's strategic priority to advance the state's clean energy transition while improving grid reliability and market access.

The renewable energy sector is adding workers at more than twice the rate of overall state employment growth, making accelerated project deployment critical for workforce expansion and broader economic development. By convening a fourteen-member composition that includes state agencies, local governments, utilities, developers, tribal entities, and environmental organizations, the study group creates a comprehensive forum to address permitting, interconnection, and grid modernization challenges while balancing land, water, wildlife, scenic resource protection, and meaningful public participation.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

EMNRD has demonstrated leadership in coordinating multi-stakeholder engagement on critical grid modernization and renewable energy infrastructure challenges. This type of engagement has been accomplished in multiple rounds of engagement currently being performed by EMNRD for

the Comprehensive Energy Transition Strategy, and SM2 Wildfire Mitigation Working Group.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

EMNRD will assume coordination responsibilities including:

- Appointing study group members in consultation with partner agencies and stakeholder organizations
- Scheduling and facilitating regular study group meetings (estimated 4–6 meetings through November 1, 2026)
- Managing logistics, agenda preparation, and documentation
- Drafting or overseeing preparation of the final report to the interim legislative committee
- Coordinating with transmission authority, PRC, and interagency partners

These responsibilities require moderate staff allocation (estimated 0.25–0.5 FTE equivalent).

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The memorial requests examination of "judicial oversight" of renewable energy infrastructure review. Judicial oversight typically involves district courts and appellate review (outside EMNRD authority). However, administrative law and appeals process improvements may fall within agency purview.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

Legislative committee study: Assign to existing interim committee rather than EMNRD-coordinated group. Potential for less comprehensive stakeholder inclusion and industry input.

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

If HM 20 is not enacted, EMNRD will not create a Renewable Energy Infrastructure Study Group to examine and develop recommendations for accelerating the review and deployment of community- and utility-scale renewable energy infrastructure in New Mexico.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

None at time of writing.