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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: CS/House Memorial 20/HENRCS

SHORT TITLE: Renewable Energy Infrastructure Study Group

SPONSOR: House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: 2/10/26 **DATE:** 2/2/26 **ANALYST:** Davidson

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
EMNRD		\$30.0		\$30.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Public Regulation Commission

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

Municipal League
Department of Game and Fish
New Mexico Counties

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HENRC Substitute for House Memorial 20

The House Energy and Natural Resources Committee substitute for House Memorial 20 (HM20) requests the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) create a Renewable Energy Infrastructure Study Group, a 16-member group that would examine and develop recommendations for the development of community and utility-scale renewable energy infrastructure. The bill asks that EMNRD, the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, the Public Regulation Commission, the State Land Office, the Department of Game and Fish, the Indian Affairs Department, the New Mexico Association of Counties, and the New Mexico Municipal League each appoint one member to the group. The bill then requests EMNRD fill the remaining eight spots in the group with representatives from industry and nongovernmental organizations with relevant expertise in the subject matter. The bill also outlines the scope of the study and particular areas the group should examine. The bill requests the group to present its findings to the appropriate interim legislative committee on or before November 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not contain appropriations and are not enforceable as state law. The study requested in this memorial is slightly beyond the normal operations of the agencies involved and could result in some additional costs or time constraints on the agency. Additionally, the study requested in this memorial could be duplicative of already existing studies or working groups within the agency and could result in additional, potentially duplicative time and financial costs for the agency.

EMNRD estimates, due to the bill not containing an appropriation but creating additional duties for the agency, the agency will need roughly \$30 thousand to coordinate the study group and implement the bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

EMNRD analysis points to current hindrances within renewable energy development, including permitting delays, regulatory complexity, interconnection constraints, and a lack of coordinated interagency review processes. Electricity demand is projected to potentially increase by 42 percent by 2040, a demand which could impede the state's commitment to zero-carbon electricity generation by 2045. EMNRD accelerated development of renewable energy could aid in meeting the goal and in addressing the growing energy demand of the state.

EMNRD notes the bill's requested topics of focus are aligned with the agency's strategic priority of improving grid reliability and increasing the ability for the state to reduce energy costs for ratepayers.

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