



Transcending Boundaries

Energy & Environment Legislative Digest

A Compendium of E&E Legislation in the South

2026 Edition





Transcending Boundaries

Energy & Environment Legislative Digest

Covering enacted measures across the Board's jurisdiction of sixteen states and two territories, along with a selection of notable bills from outside the region

Published September 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

THROUGH INNOVATIONS IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND TECHNOLOGIES, THE SOUTHERN STATES ENERGY BOARD ENHANCES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE SOUTH.

Acknowledgments

The Southern States Energy Board’s (SSEB) Legislative Digest is compiled each year in collaboration with member states and territories.

We would like to thank our Board members, legislative research personnel, state administrative officials and their staff, and many other friends of the Board for assisting us in compiling and reviewing the Digest.

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INTRODUCTION

As the Vice Chairman of the Southern States Energy Board, I am honored to introduce this edition of the Energy & Environment Legislative Digest, a compendium of energy and environment (E&E) legislation enacted by our member states and territories during this year's legislative sessions.



*Sen. Ken Yager
Tennessee
Vice Chairman*

Since 1978, the Board has published this Digest to provide legislators, policymakers, industry stakeholders, and the public with a clear view of emerging energy and environmental policy across the South. This year's edition captures 465 measures from the Board's member states and territories, alongside several dozen bills from outside our region. Bill summaries are organized by subject area to allow readers to compare approaches across jurisdictions. **Arkansas** and **Texas** do not hold traditional legislative sessions in even-numbered years, but the Board continues to monitor both states for relevant special session activity and resolutions.

Across the region, several broad themes emerged. Utilities and electric system policy remained the most active area of legislation as states addressed growing electricity demand, infrastructure investment, large-load customers, ratepayer protections, generation planning, and system resilience. **Alabama's** HB475 restructures the Public Service Commission and temporarily limits retail electric base rate increases, while **Maryland's** HB1532 addresses energy assistance, rate regulation, large-load customers, generation planning, storage, and transmission. **North Carolina's** H376 revises water and wastewater utility practices, **Mississippi's** HB1632 creates new accountability requirements for drinking water and wastewater providers, and **Puerto Rico's** HR88 directs an investigation into recurring electric outages and voltage fluctuations.

One of the most prominent regional developments was the increasing focus on large-load customers, particularly data centers and advanced computing facilities. **Alabama's** SB270 requires regulatory review of electric service contracts for data centers with expected peak demand of at least 150 megawatts, while **Florida's** S0484 addresses large-load utility tariffs, water use, land use, public health, and infrastructure impacts. **North Carolina's** budget bill, S257, repeals the state's sales tax exemption for electricity used by qualifying data centers. **Oklahoma's** HB2992 establishes rate and service requirements for large data centers and artificial intelligence facilities, **Tennessee's** HB1847 assigns data center infrastructure costs to those customers, and **Virginia** considered data center impacts on water consumption, waste heat, land use, and electric planning with HB30, HB323, and SB553. In **Texas**, Governor Abbott issued a directive to the Public Utility Commission and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to audit data center projects before approving grid connections and require detailed disclosures on their electricity and water use, public incentives, on-site generation, community impacts, and ownership, with noncompliant projects denied interconnection. Together, these measures reflect a broader effort to encourage technology-driven economic growth while protecting existing customers and local resources.

Energy resource diversity also remained a defining theme. **Alabama's** SB174 expands state authority over geothermal, hydropower, energy storage, and related development; **Georgia's** SR482 calls for a study of advanced nuclear reactors; and **Kentucky's** SB57 establishes a Nuclear Reactor Site Readiness Pilot Program. **Oklahoma's** HR1041 supports locating a federal Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus in the state, **Virginia** expands energy storage planning and procurement through HB895 and SB448, and **South Carolina's** H3967 establishes classifications for biomass-derived energy. Traditional resources remained a significant area of legislative activity. **Louisiana** continued extensive work involving oil and gas,

geothermal development, liquefied natural gas, and subsurface resources, while **West Virginia's** HB5381 calls for a long-term energy and grid security plan encompassing coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, hydrogen, geothermal energy, and other resources.

Critical infrastructure, emergency preparedness, and domestic supply chains also received significant attention. **Louisiana's** HB429 strengthens protections for critical energy and water infrastructure, and **Oklahoma's** SB893 restricts specified foreign adversary interests near critical infrastructure and military facilities. **Mississippi's** HB1646 establishes an emergency loan program for local governments recovering from federally declared disasters, **Tennessee's** SB2232 provides a state mechanism for disaster assistance when federal aid is insufficient, and **Virginia's** HB169 and SB98 create an emergency management needs work group. At the same time, **Missouri's** SB1553 creates incentives for critical material manufacturing, while **Mississippi's** SB2760 consolidates oversight of surface mining and reclamation within the Department of Environmental Quality.

Water policy and natural resource management remained another major area of activity. **Maryland** established per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) thresholds and monitoring requirements for sewage sludge, **Mississippi** extended water infrastructure funding and strengthened utility accountability, **North Carolina** addressed utility capacity, wastewater systems, stormwater, and affordability, and **Puerto Rico** continued to focus on drinking water reliability and treatment infrastructure. **South Carolina's** H5111 limits unreasonable restrictions on private wells, while **Virginia** advanced numerous measures involving drinking water, sewage, stormwater, the Chesapeake Bay, PFAS, flooding, and data center water use. Coastal states also emphasized resilience: **Florida's** S0302 creates a framework for nature-based coastal projects, **Alabama's** HB181 promotes beneficial use of dredged material, **Virginia's** HB52 establishes a policy favoring beneficial use of dredged material, and **South Carolina's** H3931 revises coastal permitting procedures.

Waste and recycling policies likewise reflected a growing emphasis on infrastructure, reuse, and long-term management. **Puerto Rico's** H19 establishes safety standards for used tires, and S219 expands financing opportunities for recycling infrastructure. **Tennessee's** SB1793 creates an Office of Cooperative Marketing for Recyclables and a Recycling Market Development and Diversion Advisory Council, while the **U.S. Virgin Islands'** Bill 36-232 authorizes controlled green waste incineration under specified environmental, safety, monitoring, and community impact requirements when preferred alternatives are unavailable.

Although the approaches differ from state to state, several common priorities are evident. Southern legislatures are responding to rapid electricity demand growth, aging and expanding infrastructure needs, emerging industrial and technological loads, extreme weather, and evolving environmental requirements while seeking to preserve affordability, reliability, economic competitiveness, and responsible resource management.

By advancing policies that strengthen energy systems, protect natural resources, encourage investment, and prepare communities for changing demands, the Board's member states and territories continue to shape an energy and environmental framework suited to the South's diverse resources and economic strengths. Whether you are a legislator whose work is featured in this publication or a reader seeking a broader understanding of policy trends across the South, I invite you to explore this year's Energy & Environment Legislative Digest and make full use of the Board's resources for comparing legislative activity across our member jurisdictions.

About Senator Ken Yager of Tennessee

Senator Ken Yager represents Tennessee Senate District 12, which includes Campbell, Clay, Fentress, Macon, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Roane, and Scott counties. A member of the Tennessee Senate since 2009, he currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus and is a member of the Fiscal Review Committee; the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee; and the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee. Senator Yager also chairs the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the state's permanent intergovernmental body charged with studying and addressing issues involving the organization, powers, functions, and relationships of federal, state, and local governments.

He has been active in regional and state energy policy throughout his legislative career, including service as Chairman of the Energy and Environment Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Southern States Energy Board, where he has been a longtime leader in advancing regional cooperation on energy, economic development, and related issues. Before his election to the Senate, Senator Yager served as Roane County Executive from 1982 to 2006 and as Roane County Attorney from 1978 to 1982.

Senator Yager earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a law degree from the University of Memphis. He and his wife, Malinda, live in Kingston and have two children.

Categories of Energy Legislation

Carbon Capture & Storage

This category collects the various measures affecting Carbon Capture & Storage studies, development, and deployment.

Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements

The topic of Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements covers all mining and refinement efforts for minerals required for the development of important technology, such as batteries, electric motors, permanent magnets, and other advanced energy applications.

Cybersecurity & Digital Technology

The Cybersecurity & Digital Technology category encompasses legislation related to cybersecurity, nascent computer technology, and increasingly robust artificial intelligence—all of which can have significant impacts related to grid security, energy efficiency, and solving problems specific to state and local governments as well as the energy industry.

Efficiency & Weatherization

The category of Efficiency & Weatherization includes legislation pertaining to the development and promotion of energy-efficient technologies and programs for buildings, homes, transportation, power systems, and industry as well as efforts to weatherize existing infrastructure, businesses, and homes.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

The Emergency Management & Homeland Security category addresses the role of state governments in response to natural or man-made emergencies involving critical energy infrastructure and supply. These emergencies may require intrastate, interstate, and/or national response and include intentional acts of terrorism.

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

The category of Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy addresses legislation concerning the production, use, and regulation of fossil fuels and geothermal energy.

Nuclear Energy

This topic covers various measures related to the study, funding, and development of nuclear energy technologies, including the transport and storage of nuclear waste.

Renewable Energy

The category of Renewable Energy includes legislation related to the incentives, barriers, and costs associated with the development and implementation of green energy sources, such as wind, solar, biomass, and hydroelectric power.

Reorganization & Coordination

Reorganization & Coordination is composed of legislation affecting the responsibilities or functions of existing state governmental agencies and departments that handle energy matters. Such legislation includes the creation of or changes in department responsibilities and the requirements regarding notice to or coordination of agencies.

Utilities

The category of Utilities focuses on legislation affecting water, gas, and electric services provided by utility and power companies. Measures in this category address changes in rates, production, distribution, services, operations, ratemaking, and the location of utility infrastructure.

Categories of Environmental Legislation

Coastal Zone Management

The category of Coastal Zone Management involves the preservation and enhancement of both offshore and onshore environments, including coastal landforms and marine ecosystems. Measures within this category include shore erosion controls, protection of aquatic vegetation and offshore reefs, and control of marine harvests.

Community & Environmental Health

The category of Community & Environmental Health includes measures addressing activities that may affect human health, wildlife, environmental quality, and community well-being.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

The topic of Emergency Management & Homeland Security addresses the role of state governments in response to natural or man-made emergencies that compromise environmental security and health. These emergencies may require intrastate, interstate, and/or national response and include intentional acts of terrorism.

Emissions & Pollution

The Emissions & Pollution category includes legislation addressing various pollutants and greenhouse gases released and emitted into the atmosphere. Specifically, measures in this category include air quality control and emission standards, as well as electric, hybrid, and alternative fuel vehicle-related measures given the low- to zero-emission nature of such transportation.

Hazardous Waste

The Hazardous Waste section contains legislation intended to control the production, transportation, use, and disposal of toxic substances and wastes.

Inland Water Quality & Management

The topic of Inland Water Quality & Management consists of legislation related to the conservation, permitting, management, and protection of inland water sources. It also covers the management of stormwater, wastewater, sewage, and other related water quality issues. The category includes measures that provide for the capture and control of the water supply, management and protection of wetlands and watersheds, and the regulation of outdoor water activities such as fishing and boating.

Land Management

The category of Land Management incorporates legislation concerning the management and protection of public and private lands and ecosystems. Legislation in this category includes land and growth management, land reclamation and restoration activities, including brownfield mitigation, soil erosion abatement and prevention, environmental covenants, forestry and timber harvesting, hunting regulations, and park management.

Reorganization & Coordination

Reorganization & Coordination is composed of legislation affecting the responsibilities and functions of existing state governmental agencies and departments that handle environmental matters. Such legislation includes the creation of or changes in department responsibilities and requirements regarding notice to or coordination of agencies.

Solid Waste

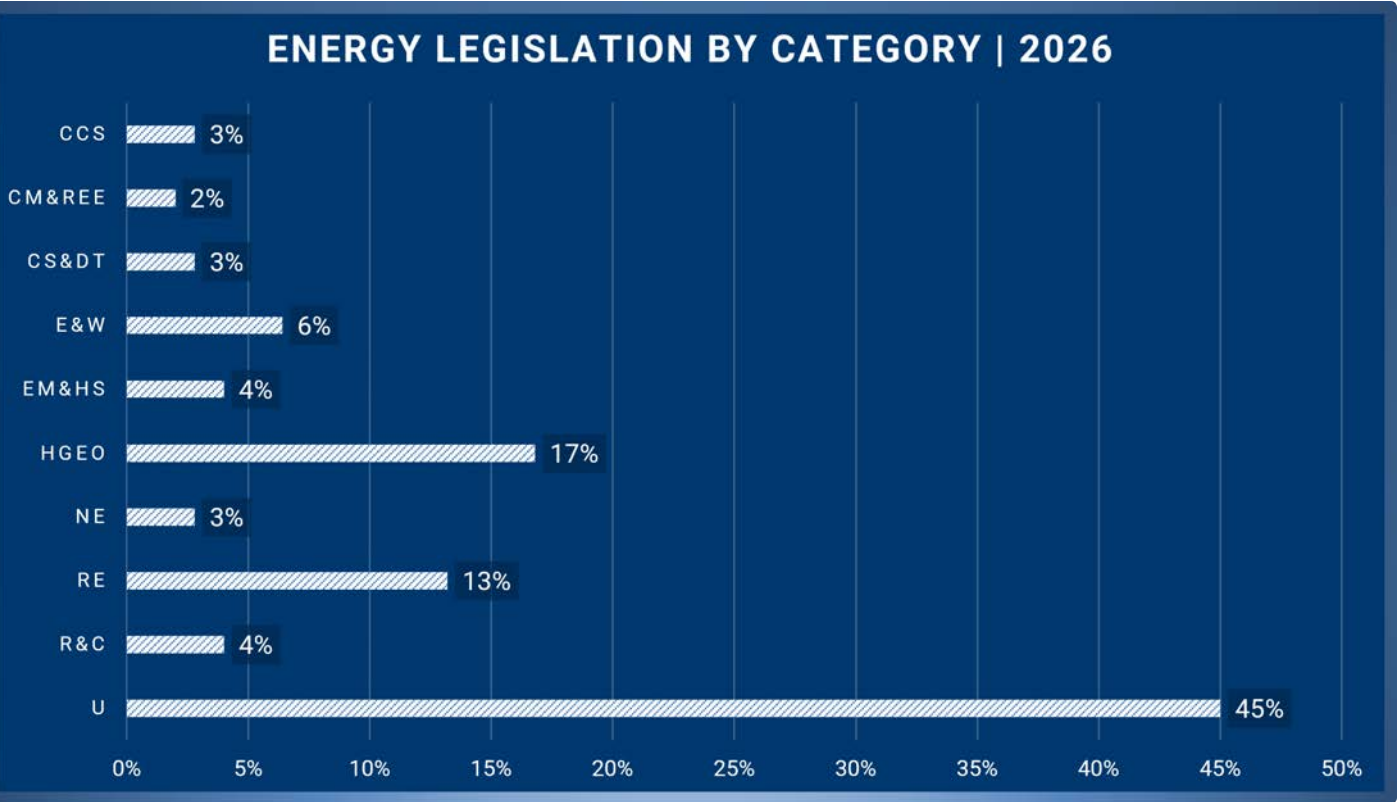
The category of Solid Waste captures legislation relating to the treatment, disposal, and/or recycling of refuse, scrap, chemical effluents, litter, and agricultural or industrial wastes.

Matrices and Graphs

The matrices and graphs on this and the following page illustrate energy and environmental legislative activity observed in SSEB member states and territories during this year’s legislative sessions.

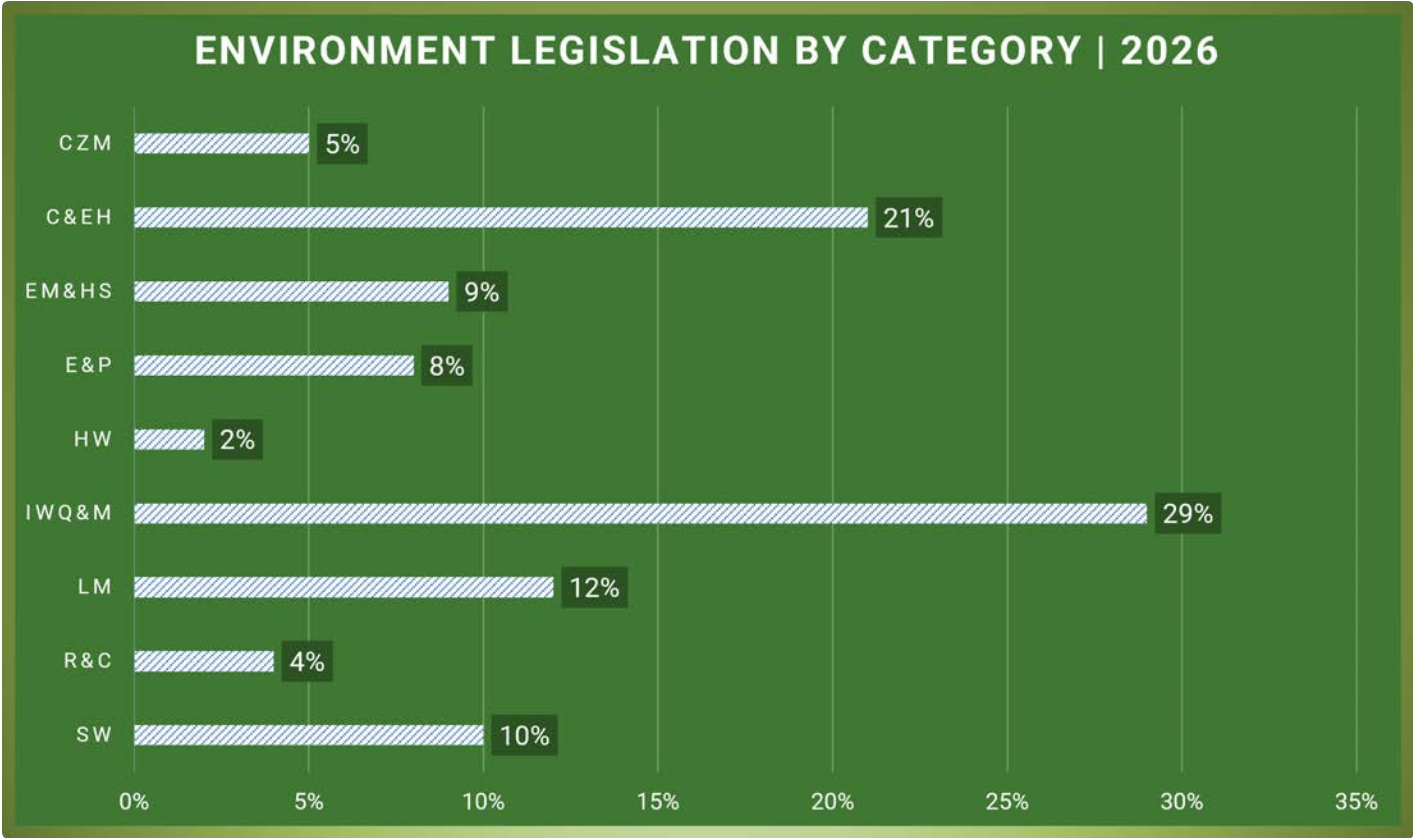
The bar charts show the percentage distribution of enacted legislative measures by category. An abbreviation legend is provided on the following page.

Energy Legislation Matrix



Categories	AL	AR	FL	GA	KY	LA	MD	MS	MO	NC	OK	PR	SC	TN	TX	VI	VA	WV
CCS				✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
CM&REE								✓	✓									✓
CS&DT						✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
E&W	✓				✓		✓	✓									✓	
EM&HS						✓	✓				✓						✓	
HGEO	✓					✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
NE	✓			✓	✓						✓	✓						
RE	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
R&C				✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
U	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓

Environmental Legislation Matrix



Categories	AL	AR	FL	GA	KY	LA	MD	MS	MO	NC	OK	PR	SC	TN	TX	VI	VA	WV
CZM	✓		✓				✓						✓				✓	
C&EH	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
EM&HS	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓			✓	✓
E&P	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓
HW					✓	✓	✓							✓			✓	
IWQ&M	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
LM	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓				✓	✓
R&C			✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓					✓
SW	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓

Matrix Legend

Energy

CCS | Carbon Capture & Storage

CM&REE | Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements

CS&DT | Cybersecurity & Digital Technology

E&W | Efficiency & Weatherization

EM&HS | Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HGEO | Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

NE | Nuclear Energy

RE | Renewable Energy

R&C | Reorganization & Coordination

U | Utilities

Environmental

CZM | Coastal Zone Management

C&EH | Community & Environmental Health

EM&HS | Emergency Management & Homeland Security

E&P | Emissions & Pollution

HW | Hazardous Waste

IWQ&M | Inland Water Quality & Management

LM | Land Management

R&C | Reorganization & Coordination

SW | Solid Waste

ALABAMA

In Brief: **SB270** puts 150-MW-plus data center electric contracts under Public Service Commission review and requires those customers to bear incremental grid costs. **HB475** restructures the PSC and freezes retail electric base rate increases until 2029. **SB174** expands state authority over geothermal, storage, hydropower, and other alternative energy wells. Board member Rep. Chip Brown sponsored **HB27**, expanding catastrophe savings accounts for wind and flood mitigation. **HB399** also narrows tax abatements for large data centers, adding another layer to the state's response to high-load growth. Nuclear policy was prominent as well, with **HJR242/SJR89** and **SJR88** supporting federal nuclear lifecycle initiatives and potential siting of an innovation campus in Alabama.

Energy Legislation

Efficiency & Weatherization

HB163 | Property-Assessed Capital Improvement Financing

Sponsored by Stubbs, T.

Authorizes local governments to establish voluntary programs for privately financed property improvements.

The act renames the Property Insurance and Energy Reduction Act as the Property Insurance Reduction and Capital Expenditure Act and allows qualifying commercial, industrial, agricultural, nonprofit, mixed-use, and multifamily properties to finance resilience, flood mitigation, energy efficiency, electric vehicle charging, power generation and storage, water conservation, and water quality improvements. Financing is repaid through a special assessment secured by a lien on the property, and existing mortgage and lienholders must consent.

The measure excludes residential property with fewer than five dwelling units and individual condominium or cooperative units. Participating local governments do not guarantee or assume repayment obligations for privately financed projects.

HB609 | Weatherization Assistance Expansion

Sponsored by Reynolds, R.

Expands eligibility, funding sources, and program administration for state weatherization assistance.

The measure raises the household income eligibility threshold from 125 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. It broadens the allowable sources of revenue for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund to include gifts, grants, contributions, interest earnings, and other lawful funds.

The act authorizes the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to contract with statewide nonprofit resiliency organizations serving low- and moderate-income housing, permits up to 10 percent of program funds to be used for administration, and requires annual reporting on program activities.

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

SB54 | Surface Mining Commission Continuation

Sponsored by Givhan, S.

Continues the Alabama Surface Mining Commission under the state sunset law until October 1, 2030.

SB86 | Motor Fuel Bond and Assessment Deadlines

Sponsored by Carnley, J.

Extends deadlines for surety bond filings and payment of assessments involving motor fuels.

The act increases from 30 to 60 days the period for compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, and motor fuel licensees to file a new, additional, or replacement surety bond or appeal a bond requirement. It also extends from 30 to 60 days the period before the Commissioner of Revenue may sell illegally imported, transported, stored, or sold motor fuel to satisfy an unpaid assessment.

SB155 | Coal-Impacted Communities Grant Program

Sponsored by Woods, M.

Establishes the Coal-Impacted Communities Economic and Workforce Development Grant Program and a dedicated fund for qualifying communities.

Administered by the Department of Workforce, the program provides grants to local development organizations serving Fayette, Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, Walker, and other qualifying coal-impacted areas. Eligible uses include workforce training, public infrastructure and services, capital improvements, community resilience, quality-of-place projects, and specified Surface Mining Commission activities. An advisory committee assists with program administration.

Beginning with federal coal lease revenue received after January 1, 2027, the measure directs the first \$1 million to the General Fund, the next \$500,000 to the Alabama Port Authority for the McDuffie Coal Terminal, the next \$250,000 to the Surface Mining Commission, and the remainder to the grant fund. The department may retain up to 10 percent for administration.

Nuclear Energy

HJR242/SJR89 | Spent Nuclear Fuel Development Support

Sponsored by Harrison, B.; Stutts, L.

Supports development of Alabama's spent nuclear fuel resources and state participation in federal nuclear lifecycle initiatives.

The resolution recognizes spent nuclear fuel as a potential source of liquid fuel for advanced reactors and urges the Governor and relevant state agencies to respond to the U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus initiative, either independently or through a regional effort. It also encourages collaboration involving legacy nuclear sites, research institutions, workforce programs, communities, and the Alabama A&M University Center for Nuclear Science and Engineering.

SJR88 | Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus Support

Sponsored by Albritton, G.

Supports efforts to locate a federal Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus in Alabama.

The resolution endorses the U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation initiative and the federal goal of expanding domestic nuclear energy capabilities. It encourages the Governor and relevant

state agencies to respond to the department's request for information and pursue designation of an Alabama site for the campus.

Renewable Energy

SB174 | Alternative Energy Wells and State Land Leasing

Sponsored by Albritton, G.

Expands state regulation and use of wells, subsurface formations, and public lands for alternative energy development.

The measure authorizes the State Oil and Gas Board to regulate alternative energy wells and facilities and the conversion of oil and gas wells or related infrastructure. Covered technologies include geothermal processes and subsurface hydropower, energy capture, and energy storage, but exclude on-site ground-source heat pump systems. The board may issue permits, adopt rules and fees, require financial assurance, and consolidate certain development rights when statutory consent and compensation requirements are met.

The act also broadens the Commissioner of Conservation's authority to lease or modify leases of state lands for energy exploration, generation, capture, storage, and transmission, including geothermal, solar, and hydropower projects.

Utilities

HB399 | Data Center Tax Abatement Limits

Sponsored by Hulsey, L.

Limits tax abatements for data processing centers and requires payment of specified taxes on certain large data center property and purchases.

For abatements granted on or after January 1, 2027, the measure limits the exemption period to 20 years. It also requires qualifying large data centers to pay applicable state noneducation property taxes and sales and use taxes on specified construction materials, equipment, electric power infrastructure, backup generation, battery storage, and related property. The act also extends the sunset date of the data processing center incentive program.

HB475 | Public Service Commission and Electric Rate Reform

Sponsored by Butler, M.

Expands the Public Service Commission and revises state oversight of electric utility rates.

The act increases the commission from three to seven members aligned with congressional districts, phases in district-based elections and six-year terms, and creates a cabinet-level Secretary of Energy beginning January 19, 2027. The secretary directs commission administration and personnel and participates in setting commission agendas.

Retail electric base rates in effect on October 1, 2026, may not increase before January 1, 2029. Thereafter, rates may not include specified utility spending for outside grants, legislative or political lobbying, or advertising other than commission-approved public safety communications. The law also requires at least one annual public meeting on rates, reliability, resilience, investment, and grid security and authorizes formal rate proceedings upon action by the secretary or a specified number of commissioners.

SB159 | Agricultural Utility Tax Exemptions

Sponsored by Williams, J.W.

Exempts specified agricultural uses of electricity and natural gas from the utility gross receipts tax and utility service use tax for a limited period.

The exemption applies to energy used for commercial aquaculture aeration, greenhouses, center-pivot irrigation systems, and poultry houses. It does not apply to hemp or cannabis operations. The exemption is effective from September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2029.

SB205 | Underground Damage Prevention for Large Projects

Sponsored by Allen, G.

Establishes preconstruction coordination requirements for large or complex excavation projects and extends the Underground Damage Prevention Program.

A qualifying project generally includes work lasting more than 40 working days, using at least five crews concurrently, or requiring multiple locate requests in the same area. Excavators must provide at least five working days' notice of a planning meeting and submit information on project scope, schedules, contacts, contractors, and proposed excavation markings. Excavators, facility operators, and locators must negotiate a working agreement addressing the project area and a schedule for completing utility locates.

Noncompliance is subject to existing enforcement provisions, and the act extends the one-call program sunset to January 1, 2037. The changes take effect January 1, 2027.

SB270 | Large-Load Data Center Electric Contracts

Sponsored by Bell, L.

Requires Public Service Commission review of electric service contracts for large-load data center customers.

The measure applies to a data center located on a single site or contiguous parcels with expected peak demand of at least 150 megawatts. The commission may approve a contract as consistent with the public interest when the customer bears the incremental costs of generation, transmission, distribution, fuel, taxes, and other service requirements and the contract provides net benefits to other retail customers.

In evaluating a contract, the commission may consider lower system costs, improved operating efficiency, economic development, and other effects on the utility and its customers.

Environmental Legislation

Coastal Zone Management

HB38 | Seagrass Restoration Task Force

Sponsored by Brown, C.

Establishes the Alabama Seagrass Restoration Task Force to coordinate research and restoration activities for seagrass and sea oats in state marine waters.

The task force must develop a 10-year restoration plan that identifies research needs, restoration technologies, priority locations, monitoring methods, and potential funding sources. It must convene by January 1, 2027, meet at least twice each year, and submit annual reports on its activities and recommendations. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab serves as fiscal agent and provides administrative and technical support, and the task force may accept grants, gifts, and other contributions.

HB181 | Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Sponsored by Marques, R.

Requires the beneficial use of certain dredged material in coastal areas.

The legislation requires a person who dredges more than one million cubic yards of material in a year to beneficially use at least 70 percent of that material. Beneficial uses may include fish and wildlife habitat development, recreation, industrial or commercial applications, shoreline restoration, and marsh creation. Depositing dredged material into public waters does not qualify unless it is part of a shoreline restoration or marsh creation project.

The measure applies only in coastal areas and directs the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to adopt implementing rules and revise the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program as necessary. State General Fund appropriations may not be used to cover compliance costs.

The requirement applies only when federal funding has been allocated for beneficial use and approved in-state sites have capacity for suitable material. The Governor also may suspend the requirement through an emergency order or proclamation that specifically references the law and establishes an expiration date. The act does not create a private right of action and takes effect October 1, 2026.

HJR270 | Mobile Bay Dredging Environmental Assessment

Sponsored by Pringle, C.

Authorizes an independent environmental and economic assessment of federal maintenance dredging and sediment disposal practices in Mobile Bay.

The University of South Alabama Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences must evaluate available data, short- and long-term effects on habitat and biodiversity, alternative disposal methods, information gaps, and potential mitigation measures. The assessment may include limited field surveys and must evaluate the economic consequences of not maintaining the navigation channel, including effects on tourism and the seafood industry. Findings must be completed within one year.

HJR279 | Mobile Bay Navigation Aid Study

Sponsored by Fidler, J.

Requests a coordinated study of navigation aids in Mobile Bay and surrounding waterways.

The resolution directs the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Transportation, and local and regional authorities, to review navigation aids from Mobile Bay through Weeks Bay to the Magnolia River. The study must identify the entity responsible for maintaining aids, assess boating safety concerns, recommend improvements to markers and related safety measures, and report its findings within six months.

Community & Environmental Health

HB267 | Forestry Commission and Burn Permit Revisions

Sponsored by Sells, C.

Revises the administration of the Alabama Forestry Commission and the state's prescribed burning and forest fire enforcement provisions.

The measure adjusts the duties and benefits of the State Forester, raises the cost threshold for construction projects requiring commission oversight, and removes authority to appoint forest law enforcement officers.

It also revises the prescribed burn permit process and associated penalties, updates penalties for violating drought-related fire prevention orders, and repeals obsolete forest fire warden provisions.

HB271 | Lifetime Disabled Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Sponsored by Stringer, S.

Establishes lifetime hunting, freshwater fishing, and saltwater fishing licenses for qualifying disabled Alabama residents beginning with the 2026 license year.

The measure sets a fee of \$50 for applicants younger than 50 and \$30 for applicants age 50 or older, in addition to a \$1 issuance fee. Revenue from hunting and freshwater fishing licenses is deposited into the Game and Fish Endowment Fund, while saltwater fishing license revenue is deposited into the Marine Resources Endowment Fund. The lifetime hunting and freshwater fishing license also includes the privileges of a wildlife heritage license.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB27 | Catastrophe Savings Account Expansion

Sponsored by Brown, C.

Expands the allowable uses of catastrophe savings accounts and the residential properties for which they may be established.

The measure permits account funds to pay the annual cost of a FORTIFIED insurance endorsement and mitigation expenses that reduce risks from hurricanes, rising floodwaters, or other catastrophic windstorm events, including reroofing and evaluation services needed to obtain a FORTIFIED designation. It also allows insured taxpayers to contribute up to an additional \$15,000 for these expenses beyond the existing deductible-based limits and replaces references to a taxpayer's legal residence with one residential property owned by the taxpayer. The changes apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

HB381 | Residential Camp Emergency Preparedness Standards

Sponsored by Faulkner, D.

Establishes licensing and emergency preparedness requirements for residential camps serving minors.

Beginning January 1, 2027, covered camps must obtain a five-year license from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. Licensing requirements include a sanitation permit, liability insurance, criminal background checks for staff, weather monitoring and communications systems, adequate emergency shelter, emergency and evacuation plans, drills, and staff training.

The act restricts new or expanded sleeping cabins in floodplains and establishes additional safety and evacuation requirements for certain existing floodplain cabins. The agency may adopt rules, enforce compliance, and maintain a public list of licensed camps.

SB8 | Emergency Preparedness Educational Materials

Sponsored by Allen, G.

Authorizes the Alabama Emergency Management Agency to use appropriated funds for educational and promotional materials concerning the agency's functions and public emergency preparedness.

Emissions & Pollution

SB71 | Environmental Rulemaking Standards

Sponsored by Chesteen, D.

Restricts state environmental rules from exceeding federal standards and establishes requirements for numeric criteria where no federal standard exists.

The measure applies to rules governing drinking water, water pollution control, hazardous substances, contaminated site remediation, air quality, solid waste, and hazardous waste. An agency generally may not adopt or amend a numeric criterion or limitation that is more stringent or broader than the corresponding federal requirement. When no federal standard exists, the criterion must be supported by the best available science and the weight of scientific evidence for each regulated substance.

The act also prohibits agencies from defaulting to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Integrated Risk Information System values when establishing numeric water quality criteria and requires revision of affected existing rules within nine months. Specified federally required, equivalent, less stringent, and emergency rules are exempt.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB337 | Madison County Private Sewer Regulation

Sponsored by Whitt, A.

Proposes a constitutional amendment placing certain privately owned sewer systems in Madison County under Public Service Commission regulation.

The amendment applies to specified sewer entities that use public road rights-of-way, discharge to qualifying treatment facilities, and charge customers flat or water-use-based fees. Covered entities must obtain commission certification and become subject to rate and service oversight.

A county, municipality, or the Government Utility Services Corporation may opt covered customers out of commission jurisdiction through a qualifying rate control agreement. Commission jurisdiction resumes if the agreement is invalidated or terminated, and a voluntarily terminated agreement may not be replaced for five years. The amendment requires voter ratification.

SB378 | Alabama Dam Safety Program Administration

Sponsored by Chambliss, C.

Assigns the Alabama Emergency Management Agency responsibility for administering the Alabama Dam Safety Program and establishes approval and inspection requirements for participating dams.

The program applies to qualifying dams that are at least 25 feet high or impound at least 50 acre-feet of water. Privately owned dams and reservoirs are included only when the owner voluntarily participates. Participating owners must obtain agency approval before constructing, reconstructing, enlarging, altering, repairing, operating, breaching, abandoning, or removing a dam and must submit plans prepared by a professional engineer.

The agency must inspect participating dams at least once every four years, may adopt rules and fees, and must prepare an implementation, operating, and financial plan for the program.

Land Management

HB117 | County Commissions Procurement Program Authority

Sponsored by Hill, J.

Authorizes county commissions to apply procurement or purchasing programs to services in addition to tangible personal property. It also allows a county to consider administrative savings, as well as direct cost savings, when determining whether to implement such a program.

The measure permits the county chief administrative officer to designate another individual to supervise the program. Existing safeguards remain in place, including written purchasing policies, transaction and monthly spending limits, employee training, recordkeeping, review of charges, and payment or electronic settlement within 45 days.

Solid Waste

SB32 | Solid Waste Fee Exemption for Veterans' Benefits

Sponsored by Kitchens, W.

Expands exemptions from mandatory solid waste collection fees to certain households whose sole income consists of veterans' benefits.

Eligible households must request the exemption and provide annual documentation. When household income exceeds the federal poverty level, the exemption applies only if the county or municipality adopts a resolution authorizing it. The measure defines the veterans' benefits that qualify and takes effect October 1, 2026.

ARKANSAS

The background of the page is the Arkansas state flag, which features a red field with a large white shield in the center. The shield is bordered by a blue band containing white stars. The shield itself is divided into three sections: a blue section at the top with white stars, a white section at the bottom with a blue star, and a red section on the right with a white star.

Arkansas holds a fiscal session in even-numbered years and does not typically pass legislation concerning energy and environmental issues.

However, we continue to monitor the state's legislature for any relevant special session bills.

FLORIDA

In Brief: **S0484** creates large-load/data center tariffs, water-use permitting, and a broad study of data center impacts on land, health, infrastructure, and rates. **H1217** bars state and local governments from adopting or funding specified net-zero and emissions policies, making it a major climate-policy flashpoint. **S0302** creates a statewide framework for nature-based coastal resiliency projects, while **H1417** makes broad environmental-program revisions touching stormwater, coastal resilience, and water management. Taken together, the session paired aggressive development and utility policy with equally consequential changes to environmental governance and climate-related authority.

Energy Legislation

Utilities

H1451 | Municipal Utility Service Agreements and Rates

Sponsored by Commerce Committee; Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; Busatta Cabrera, D.

Revises requirements for municipal water, wastewater, gas, and electric service provided outside municipal boundaries.

New, renewed, or materially amended service agreements must be in writing and are subject to public meetings in each affected municipality or unincorporated area. Municipal providers must also conduct annual customer meetings. The act eliminates the prior 25 percent surcharge authority and reduces the maximum differential for outside boundary water and wastewater rates from 50 percent to 25 percent, subject to limited transition provisions for existing bond covenants.

Beginning January 1, 2027, municipal providers must report specified service, rate, and financial data annually to the Public Service Commission, which must submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature. The measure also preempts specified matters involving legislatively created regional utility authorities to the state.

S0288 | Rural Electric Cooperative Fuel Choice Fees

Sponsored by Rodriguez, A.M.

Prohibits retail rural electric cooperatives from imposing specified fees that restrict customer fuel choices or appliances.

A cooperative may not adopt, enact, or enforce a lot fee, developer fee, surcharge, or similar charge that has the effect of restricting or prohibiting a fuel source or appliance used to provide energy to a customer.

S0484 | Large-Scale Data Center Utility and Water Regulation

Sponsored by Rules, et al.

Establishes electric utility, water use, land use, and study requirements for large-load customers and large-scale data centers.

The act preserves local comprehensive planning and land development authority over large-load customers and provides that a data center is not an electric substation for purposes of state siting preemption. Public utilities must file large-load tariffs with the Public Service Commission by October 1, 2026, designed to allocate service costs to the customer, protect other ratepayers, and address system reliability. Utilities may not knowingly serve covered facilities owned or controlled by a foreign country of concern.

The measure establishes a separate consumptive-use permit process for large-scale data centers, authorizes requirements for reclaimed water use, and treats certain permit modifications as new applications. It also directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to obtain an interdisciplinary study of economic, tax, land, water, energy, rate, public health, safety, siting, and mitigation issues associated with large-scale data centers.

S7006 | Public Service Commission Confidential Meetings

Sponsored by Regulated Industries

Extends confidentiality protections for portions of Florida Public Service Commission hearings involving proprietary confidential business information.

The measure removes the scheduled October 2, 2026, repeal of the public meeting exemption. Closed portions of a hearing must continue to be recorded and transcribed, and those recordings and transcripts remain confidential and exempt from public disclosure.

Environmental Legislation

Coastal Zone Management

S0302 | Nature-Based Coastal Resiliency Permitting

Sponsored by Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government, et al.

Establishes a statewide framework for permitting and encouraging nature-based coastal resilience projects.

The Department of Environmental Protection must initiate rulemaking by January 1, 2027, to establish permit criteria, general permits, incentives, and procedures for replacing qualifying projects after storms. The department must also develop design guidance for green and hybrid infrastructure and provide public education on nature-based methods.

The act authorizes specified nature-based restoration activities in aquatic preserves, including living shorelines and certain seawalls in Biscayne Bay, while restricting dredging and filling in the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve except for authorized purposes and subject to public notice.

Emissions & Pollution

H0167 | Former Phosphate Mine Radiation Claims

Sponsored by McClure, L.; Gentry, R.

Establishes a defense from strict environmental liability for naturally occurring geological substances on former phosphate mining lands.

A defendant must show that a notice identifying the property as a former phosphate mine was recorded in the county and that the Department of Health conducted a gamma radiation survey at a landowner's request. The act authorizes landowners to record the required notice and directs the department to perform qualifying surveys upon petition.

A plaintiff bringing specified claims involving an alleged hazardous substance discharge or pollution condition related to phosphate mining must include a qualifying radiation survey with the complaint.

H1217 | Governmental Net-Zero Policy Restrictions

Sponsored by Commerce Committee; Snyder, J.; Jacques, B.; Tramont, C.

Prohibits governmental entities from adopting, funding, or enforcing specified net-zero and greenhouse gas emissions policies.

The act bars governmental entities from using public funds for procurement preferences, memberships, contributions, or other activities that support a net-zero policy and prohibits charges, taxes, fees, assessments, or offset requirements imposed to advance such policies. Each governmental entity must submit an annual compliance affidavit to the Department of Revenue.

The measure also prohibits governmental entities from establishing greenhouse gas emissions limits or trading programs or joining organizations that require such policies. Exceptions preserve specified authority of government-owned electric and gas utilities, the Public Service Commission, and entities acting under other state or federal law.

S1434 | Brownfield Infill Redevelopment

Sponsored by Rules; Judiciary; Calatayud, A.

Creates the Infill Redevelopment Act to require residential development opportunities on certain underused environmentally impacted parcels.

The act applies to qualifying parcels of at least five acres in specified high-population urban counties, including brownfield and other environmentally affected sites. Local governments must administratively allow residential development at the lower of the average surrounding zoning density or 25 dwelling units per acre and may not use subdivision or other local requirements to prevent development that meets the act's standards.

Qualifying recreation or golf course parcels must have been unused for at least 12 months, are subject to additional parks and recreation impact fees, and require notice and a purchase opportunity for adjoining property owners. The measure establishes a 20-foot buffer adjacent to certain single-family homes and townhouses and preempts conflicting local restrictions.

Inland Water Quality & Management

H0589 | Septic System Permit Coordination

Sponsored by State Affairs Committee, et al.

Separates local building and plumbing permit issuance from state septic construction permit issuance for certain single-family residences.

A municipality or political subdivision may not condition a building or plumbing permit on prior receipt of a Department of Environmental Protection construction permit for an on-site sewage treatment and disposal system when the owner or builder demonstrates that the state permit application has been filed. An owner or applicant who begins construction before the septic permit is issued assumes the resulting legal, financial, and safety risks.

The act also provides that newly adopted department rules governing on-site systems do not apply to permit applications filed within 90 days after the rule's adoption.

H1417 | Department of Environmental Protection Revisions

Sponsored by State Affairs Committee, et al.

Revises multiple environmental protection programs and repeals the Environmental Regulation Commission.

Applicants for specified stormwater permits for solar facilities must implement site-specific erosion and sediment controls, and new operational stormwater systems serving solar facilities in the Northwest Florida Water Management District must be designed for the projected 100-year, 24-hour storm. The act recognizes coastal resiliency projects as eligible public-private partnership projects and directs the Department of Environmental Protection to encourage private investment, publish biennial progress reports, and maintain an online project dashboard.

The measure removes a requirement that certain residential properties larger than 10 acres in the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program connect to sewer or upgrade an on-site wastewater system, while requiring permitting agencies to provide upgrade notices for specified repair or replacement applications. It also changes the annual fee deadline for major air pollution sources and ratifies revised minimum flows, levels, and recovery provisions for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs.

H4093 | Fellsmere Water Control District Reorganization

Sponsored by Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Brackett, R.

Reorganizes the Fellsmere Water Control District as a dependent district of Indian River County.

The act designates the Board of County Commissioners as the district governing board, revises district boundaries, and updates provisions governing the maintenance and use of specified canals and access to public records. The measure takes effect October 1, 2026, only if legislation creating the Headwaters Water Control District also becomes law.

H4095 | Headwaters Water Control District Creation

Sponsored by State Affairs Committee; Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Brackett, R.

Creates the Headwaters Water Control District in Indian River County as a public corporation.

The act establishes the district's charter, legal status, boundaries, governance requirements, and authority concerning the maintenance and use of specified canals. It also provides procedures for charter amendments and identifies the laws applicable to district operations. The measure takes effect only if legislation reorganizing the Fellsmere Water Control District also becomes law.

S0848 | Regional Stormwater Treatment and Water Quality Credits

Sponsored by Rules; Environment and Natural Resources; Truenow, K.

Revises stormwater treatment regulation through regional stormwater management systems and water quality enhancement areas.

Environmental resource permit applicants for regional systems must document financial responsibility, update that documentation every five years, and identify the drainage area served. Applicants within that area may purchase pollution reduction allocations to meet stormwater treatment requirements, and applicants may use compensating treatment or water quality enhancement credits when ambient conditions prevent direct compliance.

Use of an enhancement credit transfers responsibility for the associated treatment requirement to the credit generator. The Department of Environmental Protection must adopt water quality enhancement area rules by October 1, 2026, while allowing provisional permits and credits before final rules take effect. The act limits use of regional systems and credits for certain port activities at specified seaports.

Land Management

H0399 | Land Use and Development Regulation Updates

Sponsored by State Affairs Committee; Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee; Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Borrero, D.

Revises local land use and development regulation requirements.

Beginning January 1, 2027, local development permit and order application fees must reasonably relate to the actual cost of reviewing, processing, and resolving the application. Comprehensive plans and land development regulations must include factors for assessing compatibility among residential uses, objective mitigation measures, and written findings before an application may be denied on compatibility grounds.

The act also establishes regulatory parity for specified off-site constructed dwellings and manufactured housing, requires public school interlocal agreements to address access to public easements and rights-of-way, and limits local conditions placed on compliant compost processing facilities. It also provides an administrative approval process for specified minor modifications at qualifying large destination resorts through July 1, 2031.

H0441 | Conservation Land Sale and Exchange Review

Sponsored by Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee, et al.

Revises public notice, appraisal, and review procedures for proposed sales and exchanges of conservation lands.

The Division of State Lands must publish specified information before the Acquisition and Restoration Council or the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund reviews a proposed sale or exchange. Information must identify the affected parcels, the reason for the proposal, anticipated conservation effects, and agency recommendations. Certain land exchanges require at least one appraisal conducted under board-approved criteria.

Water management district governing boards must provide comparable advance public information before considering the sale or exchange of district conservation lands.

H0755 | Florida Keys Conservation Land Funding

Sponsored by Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee, et al.

Extends specified Florida Forever appropriations for the acquisition of land in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern.

The measure continues the availability of designated land acquisition funding for properties that support conservation and growth management objectives in the Florida Keys.

Reorganization & Coordination

S0290 | Agriculture, Conservation Land, and Biosolids Revisions

Sponsored by Rules; Fiscal Policy; Agriculture; Truenow, K.

Revises agricultural, conservation land, forestry, biosolids, and compact participation administered by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and other state agencies.

The act also preempts local restrictions that distinguish or prohibit gasoline-powered farm or landscape equipment. It requires reviews of surplus local and state conservation lands for agricultural suitability while retaining specified conservation protections and excluding state forests, state parks, wildlife management areas, and certain Everglades restoration lands.

Beginning July 1, 2028, only Class AA biosolids may be land applied, with a later compliance date for specified local governments, and the measure removes legislative ratification requirements for certain biosolids rules.

Solid Waste

H4039 | Monarch Hill Landfill Expansion Review

Sponsored by Daley, D.; Rosenwald, M.

Requires an independent feasibility study and public hearing before Broward County may approve an expansion of the Monarch Hill Landfill.

The study must be conducted by an entity with expertise in environmental engineering, solid waste management, and public health and must evaluate environmental and public health effects, alternative waste management options including waste-to-energy technologies, effects on surrounding communities, and the cumulative impact of existing operations and the proposed expansion.

At least one public hearing must be held within five miles of the landfill, with 30 days' public notice and direct notice to property owners within two miles. The study findings must be presented, and the study and hearing must be completed and publicly disclosed before approval of an application, zoning change, permit, or development order allowing physical expansion.

GEORGIA

In Brief: **SB306** makes carbon sequestration an allowable secondary use on conservation-use property, linking land policy with CCS. **SR482** calls for a Public Service Commission study of advanced nuclear reactors and their potential to expand generation and economic development. Board member Rep. Lynn Smith sponsored **HR1008**, which ratifies amendments to Georgia's statewide water management plan and updates regional water-planning coordination. **HR1843** recognizes Rep. Lynn Smith, a Board Executive Committee member, upon her retirement. On the environmental side, **SR610** creates a Senate recycling study committee, while **HB956** expands uses of the Solid Waste Trust Fund. These measures show Georgia balancing emerging energy resources with long-term water and materials management policy.

Energy Legislation

Carbon Capture & Storage

SB306 | Conservation Use Property and Carbon Sequestration

Sponsored by Robertson, R.; Cannon, C.

Revises requirements for property receiving bona fide conservation use preferential assessment and recognizes carbon sequestration as an allowable secondary use.

The act requires certified mail notice before certain conservation use covenants expire, establishes limited procedures to reinstate covenants and preferential assessments when notice requirements are not met, and provides related appeal and refund protections. It also permits carbon sequestration as a secondary use without disqualifying otherwise eligible conservation use property.

Nuclear Energy

SR482 | Advanced Nuclear Reactor Study

Sponsored by Bearden, T., et al.

Urges the Georgia Public Service Commission to establish a study committee on advanced nuclear reactors.

The requested committee would examine how advanced reactor technologies could increase electricity generation and support economic development and make recommendations to the Senate.

Reorganization & Coordination

HR1843 | Recognizing Southern States Energy Board Member Lynn Smith

Sponsored by Rhodes, T., et al.

Recognizes and commends Representative Lynn Smith, a Southern States Energy Board Executive Committee member and former Vice Chair, upon the occasion of her retirement for her decades of dedicated public service to Georgia.

Utilities

HB1261 | Electric Utility Inventory Tax Exemption

Sponsored by Huddleston, D., et al.

Creates a Level 1 freeport property tax exemption for qualifying electric utility inventory.

The exemption applies to machinery, equipment, materials, and supplies held in inventory for use in an electric utility's ordinary operations, including generation, transmission, and distribution components. Utilities must apply for the exemption and provide a summary of qualifying inventory, and property ceases to qualify once it is incorporated into operating facilities.

HR1051 | State Property Utility Easements

Sponsored by Greene, G., et al.

Authorizes nonexclusive easements across specified state-owned properties for utilities, facilities, roads, and access.

The resolution permits the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of authorized infrastructure on, over, under, across, or through state property in the locations specified by the measure, subject to the terms of the easements.

SB553 | Construction and Utility Contractor Licensing

Sponsored by Hatchett, B., et al.

Reorganizes state licensing requirements for electrical, plumbing, conditioned air, low-voltage, and utility contractors.

The act repeals and reenacts the applicable licensing chapter, updating contractor classifications, board and administrative provisions, qualifications, examinations, renewals, discipline, and related licensing requirements.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

HB946 | Feral Hog Control

Sponsored by Clifton, R., et al.

Revises requirements governing the hunting and trapping of feral hogs.

The act permits the trapping of feral hogs under specified circumstances without otherwise applicable hunting and trapping license requirements when captured hogs are killed, repeals provisions for wildlife control permits for feral hogs, and authorizes the use of unmanned aircraft systems to locate feral hogs.

HB1277 | Environmental Review and EV Charging Provisions

Sponsored by Barton, M., et al.

Raises the project-cost threshold that triggers state environmental evaluations for certain public road and airport projects and revises electric vehicle charging provisions.

The act increases the environmental evaluation threshold from \$100 million to \$200 million and provides for inflation adjustments beginning July 1, 2027. It also updates electric vehicle charging terminology and postpones specified Department of Agriculture regulatory and tax provisions for electricity delivered by public charging stations until January 1, 2028.

SR480 | Southern Pine Beetle Mitigation

Sponsored by Smith, V., et al.; Brass, M., et al.

Recognizes the acute and ongoing threat to Georgia's forests posed by the southern pine beetle, particularly in the western region of the state, and encourages all Georgia landowners to follow guidance by the Georgia Forestry Commission to mitigate its spread.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB1139 | Spalding County Water Authority Governance

Sponsored by Camp, B.; Mathiak, K.

Revises governance and operating provisions for the Spalding County water and sewer authority and renames it the Spalding County Water Authority.

The act changes the authority's membership and compensation provisions and updates its powers, enforcement mechanisms, definitions, and procedures for collecting rates and charges.

HR1008 | Statewide Water Management Plan Amendments

Sponsored by Smith, L., et al.

Ratifies amendments to Georgia's comprehensive statewide water management plan.

The revised plan updates the structure and operation of Regional Water Planning Councils, including changes to membership and terms, and allows coordination agreements among the councils, Environmental Protection Division, and Department of Community Affairs to be renewed as needed rather than on a fixed three-year cycle.

Land Management

SB447 | Erosion and Sedimentation Permit Decisions

Sponsored by Dixon, C., et al.

Revises procedures for accepting, denying, or declining permit applications, including permits under the state soil erosion and sedimentation program.

Local issuing authorities must provide rejected applicants with written reasons for denial or nonacceptance within specified timeframes. The measure also establishes general application processing requirements for counties and municipalities.

SR56 | Conservation Use Property Expansion

Sponsored by Watson, S., et al.

Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to double the maximum acreage that qualifies for assessment and taxation as a bona fide conservation use property as it relates to agricultural and timber land from 2,000 to 4,000 acres.

Solid Waste

HB956 | Solid Waste Trust Fund Uses

Sponsored by Corbett, J.; Smith, L.; Cannon, C.; Goodman, R.

Expands authorized uses of the Solid Waste Trust Fund to support implementation of the state's solid waste management program.

Fund revenues may be used for activities necessary to administer solid waste management requirements, including permitting, monitoring, inspections, regulatory and technical guidance, and enforcement.

SR610 | Recycling Study Committee

Sponsored by Hatchett, B.; Brass, M.; Robertson, R.; Strickland, B.

Creates the Senate Study Committee on Improving and Increasing Recycling.

The committee is charged with examining opportunities to strengthen recycling in Georgia, including policies and practices that could increase material recovery and support recycling-related economic activity, and with recommending any appropriate legislative action.

KENTUCKY

In Brief: Board member Rep. Jim Gooch sponsored **HB677**, a comprehensive geologic CO₂ sequestration framework covering Class VI wells, pore-space rights, financial assurance, and long-term stewardship. **SB57** creates a Nuclear Reactor Site Readiness Pilot Program with grants toward federal licensing costs. Board member Sen. Brandon Smith sponsored **SB8**, which reorganizes Public Service Commission governance and changes utility and transmission proceedings. **SCR66** complements the nuclear push by encouraging university education and workforce programs, while **SB100** reorganizes the Energy Planning and Inventory Commission. Kentucky also addressed affordability and system management through **SB172**, allowing longer recovery periods for fuel-adjustment costs to reduce short-term rate volatility.

Energy Legislation

Carbon Capture & Storage

HB677 | Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Regulation

Sponsored by Gooch, J.; Payne, J.T.; Williams, W.

Creates a comprehensive permitting, financial assurance, and long-term stewardship framework for geologic carbon dioxide sequestration.

The act requires permits for carbon dioxide storage facilities and Class VI injection wells, establishes application and operating standards, requires financial responsibility for closure and related obligations, and creates administrative and trust funds supported by application fees and per-ton sequestration fees. Enhanced oil or gas recovery is excluded, while oil, gas, or coalbed-methane wells converted for sequestration are brought under the new framework.

The measure establishes pore space consent, pooling, notice, compensation, and escrow procedures for nonconsenting or unidentified owners; sets well integrity, monitoring, plugging, abandonment, and public notice requirements; and provides enforcement and penalties. Following a completion certificate after at least 50 years or another period approved by the Energy and Environment Cabinet, ownership and long-term responsibility for the facility may transfer to the Commonwealth, with pore space and surface owners held harmless as provided by the act.

Efficiency & Weatherization

HB527 | Optional Roof Upgrade Insurance Coverage

Sponsored by Pollock, M.; Brown, G.

Requires property insurers to offer an optional policy provision for upgrading the roof structure of dwellings that do not meet existing FORTIFIED standards.

Nuclear Energy

SB57 | Nuclear Reactor Site Readiness Program

Sponsored by Carroll, D., et al.

Establishes the Nuclear Reactor Site Readiness Pilot Program to support federal licensing and potential development of nuclear generating facilities.

The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority must evaluate applications and recommend grants to the General Assembly for up to one-third of actual Nuclear Regulatory Commission early site, construction permit, or combined license costs, capped at \$25 million per grant. Recipients must provide financial security and may be required to repay awards if permitting, licensing, or construction milestones are not met.

Regulated utilities may seek Public Service Commission recovery of qualifying licensing costs not already recovered in rates, excluding amounts offset by program grants. The act also requires nuclear-related training for at-large authority members and makes fusion-related projects eligible for the Nuclear Energy Development Grant Program.

SCR66 | Nuclear Energy Education and Workforce

Sponsored by West, S., et al.

Urges the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to pursue federal nuclear energy programs and expand nuclear-related education and workforce training.

The resolution asks the universities to explore participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program and to develop courses and degree pathways for workers who may construct and operate future nuclear facilities. It also encourages collaboration with the United States Department of War on nuclear energy grant and research opportunities.

Reorganization & Coordination

SB100 | Energy Planning and Inventory Commission Governance

Sponsored by Mills, R.; Deneen, M.; Elkins, G.

Reorganizes the Energy Planning and Inventory Commission and establishes a dedicated fund for its operations.

EPIC is administratively attached to the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research while retaining independent functions and separate accounts. The act gives the executive director authority over staff and contractors, allows the commission to conduct its own procurements, revises board and executive committee membership, and requires employment of an executive director.

Information, records, and data submitted by utilities or produced by EPIC members and staff are made confidential and exempt from state open records requirements, and the act establishes the Energy Planning and Inventory Commission Fund.

Utilities

HB398 | Electric Generating Unit Decommissioning Cost Recovery

Sponsored by Williams, W.

Clarifies Public Service Commission authority over utility cost recovery for electric generating unit retirements.

The commission may approve a utility's recording and recovery, before retirement authorization, of decommissioning, removal and salvage costs, and depreciation expenses through rates over the unit's estimated depreciable life.

SB8 | Public Service Commission Governance

Sponsored by Smith, B.; Mills, R.; Webb, R.; West, S.

Reorganizes the governance and administrative structure of the Kentucky Public Service Commission and modifies utility proceedings.

The act establishes new commissioner appointment, qualification, confirmation, term, and conflict-of-interest requirements; makes the commission an independent department administratively attached to the Auditor of Public Accounts only for requested functions; and grants the commission greater control over procurement, professional staffing, and contracting. It also sets qualifications for intervenors and provides that the Attorney General, when intervening, serves as the sole advocate for residential consumers.

The measure raises the voltage and length thresholds at which electric transmission lines require a certificate of public convenience and necessity and transfers records and functions associated with the commission's former administrative relationship with the Energy and Environment Cabinet.

SB172 | Fuel Adjustment Cost Recovery

Sponsored by Wheeler, P., et al.

Authorizes the Public Service Commission, at an electric utility's request, to extend the period over which fuel adjustment costs are recovered from customers.

The commission may use the longer recovery period to reduce short-term rate volatility and promote rate stability.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

HB142 | Depredating Wildlife and Deer Permits

Sponsored by Pollock, M., et al.

Expands permits and seasons available for taking deer that damage private land or property.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources must issue at least five deer destruction permits to qualifying landowners, family members, or designees and provide for renewal. The act also allows a requesting individual to receive a permit for one additional antlered deer and authorizes licensed or permitted persons to take antlerless deer for 10 days following the close of a muzzle-loading season.

HB506 | Fish and Wildlife Management Revisions

Sponsored by Hale, D., et al.

Revises state wildlife enforcement, management, and penalties.

The measure updates definitions for native and exotic wildlife, expands seizure and contraband provisions for unlawfully taken or possessed wildlife, updates rules for depredating and mortally wounded animals, and revises enforcement provisions for pay lakes. It also doubles fines for violations of the fish and wildlife chapter, establishes or updates wildlife replacement costs and restitution procedures, and raises the property damage threshold for mandatory boating accident reports.

HB571 | Shielded Lighting Near Agricultural Land

Sponsored by Holloway, K.; Bivens, R.; Hodgson, J.

Requires the Transportation Cabinet to fully shield outdoor lighting that encroaches on agricultural land.

SB39 | Private Pond Fishing and Stocking

Sponsored by Boswell, G., et al.

Expands fishing and fish stocking flexibility for private landowners.

A bona fide private landowner is exempt from state restrictions on creel, possession, size, and method of take for fishing in private lakes and ponds and may extend those privileges to others in writing or electronically. The act also permits specified largemouth bass stocking without restriction while retaining prohibitions on stocking invasive fish.

SR194 | Regulated Trapping and Wildlife Management

Sponsored by Webb, R.

Recognizes regulated trapping as a component of modern wildlife management and conservation.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB767 | Kentucky Qualification System

Sponsored by Fugate, C.

Requires the Division of Emergency Management to establish and maintain the Kentucky Qualification System for emergency management personnel.

The Kentucky Qualification System validates standardized skills and competencies for individuals managing complex incidents and events.

Hazardous Waste

SB199 | Pesticide Duty-to-Warn Standard

Sponsored by Howell, J.; Richardson, C.

Establishes that an EPA-approved label for a pesticide registered with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture satisfies warning requirements for purposes of a duty-to-warn action.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB651 | WWATERS Program Eligibility and Project Ranking

Sponsored by Bray, J.; Petrie, J.

Tightens eligibility and project review requirements for the Kentucky Water and Wastewater Assistance for Troubled or Economically Restrained Systems (WWATERS) Program.

Applicants must meet at least three statutory eligibility criteria rather than one, and projects that expand the applicant's utility service are excluded. Applications must include detailed budgets, successful recipients must adopt best management practices addressing identified performance deficiencies, and the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority may evaluate phased projects separately.

The act revises scoring criteria to account for serious stormwater inflow or groundwater infiltration, prior program funding for an earlier project phase, comparable project costs, and a professional engineer's attestation. Eligible projects must be scored and ranked individually, with additional consideration for projects that provide or restore safe water or wastewater utility service.

HJR81 | WWATERS Funding Release

Sponsored by Bray, J.; Petrie, J.; Bowling, A.

Authorizes the Office of State Budget Director to release a portion of previously appropriated funds for the Kentucky Water and Wastewater Assistance for Troubled or Economically Restrained Systems (WWATERS) Program.

Land Management

HB542 | Conservation Easements and Eminent Domain

Sponsored by Dossett, M.; Bivens, R.; Chester-Burton, B.; Hart, M.

Adds procedural protections when eminent domain is used against land subject to conservation easements or located in agricultural districts.

A condemnor must submit a written report to the court demonstrating that no feasible alternative location exists, and the court may dismiss the action if that showing is not made. The act also expands notice and appraisal rights for affected property owners and requires agricultural improvements and other preexisting improvements to be considered in determining fair market value.

SB222 | Environmental Covenant Modifications

Sponsored by Herron, K., et al.

Creates a process for reducing or removing land use restrictions in environmental covenants when the Energy and Environment Cabinet determines they are no longer necessary.

The covenant may be amended without approval from certain previously required signatories if the sole effect is to reduce or eliminate the restriction and statutory procedures are followed. The cabinet must notify affected parties and provide an opportunity to object, and affected parties may seek judicial review of the cabinet's determination.

Solid Waste

SB29 | Out-of-Area Solid Waste Facility Fees

Sponsored by Elkins, G., et al.

Restricts local fees and permitting requirements tied to the origin of solid waste.

A county or waste management district may not impose fees or permitting requirements on a solid waste management facility located in another county or district solely because the facility handles waste generated within the first jurisdiction.

SB49 | Covered Battery Stewardship Program

Sponsored by Elkins, G.; Girdler, R.; Rawlings, S.

Establishes a state Covered Battery Stewardship Program and new disposal requirements for covered batteries.

The act prohibits covered batteries from being placed in solid waste disposal or recycling containers and directs the Energy and Environment Cabinet to develop the program with stakeholders. The cabinet must maintain public collection site and transporter information, register voluntary battery stewardship organizations, and review stewardship plans.

Participating organizations must report annually beginning June 30, 2027, on battery collection, recovery, and educational outreach.

LOUISIANA

In Brief: **HB429** expands protections for critical energy and water infrastructure, including cyber and drone interference. **HR279** explicitly supports expanded geothermal development, while **SCR6** backs an LNG facility at Port Fourchon. Board member Rep. Neil Riser sponsored **HB464**, strengthening reporting when excavation damages underground utilities. CCS also remained prominent through **HB79** and **HR276**, addressing storage liability and conflicts with mineral development. **HB804** limits state law civil actions seeking climate change damages attributed to greenhouse gas emissions, and **HR197** directs a study of distributed generation, storage, and virtual power plants for rising electricity demand. Louisiana's breadth reflects its continuing focus on conventional fuels, emerging subsurface technologies, grid resilience and industrial security.

Energy Legislation

Carbon Capture & Storage

HB79 | Carbon Capture Damage Recovery

Sponsored by Carter, R.; Johnson, M.; McCormick, D.; Owen, C.

Modifies statutory limits on non-economic damages in civil actions involving carbon dioxide storage facilities, transmission pipelines, and generators.

The act retains the general \$250,000 per-person cap but removes the \$500,000 per-person cap for specified exceptional injuries, including wrongful death, permanent and substantial deformity, loss of a limb or organ system, and permanent functional injury preventing independent self-care. It also repeals the separate \$1 million fallback limit that applied if the liability limits were held unconstitutional or invalid.

HR144 | Carbon Capture Stream Mixing Study

Sponsored by Owen, C.

Requests a peer-reviewed study of the potential environmental effects of mixing carbon dioxide streams captured from industrial facilities and ambient air.

The Board of Regents must examine potential impacts on water supplies and ecological systems and provide staged reports, including findings, hazard assessments, modeling, and recommendations, through June 2028.

HR276 | Carbon Storage and Advanced Drilling Task Force

Sponsored by Landry, J.; Chassion, T.

Creates the Task Force on Advanced Drilling to study interactions between geologic carbon storage and existing mineral development.

The task force must examine impacts on mineral rights and oil and gas operations and submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

Cybersecurity & Digital Technology

SB99 | Department of Environmental Quality Electronic Communications

Sponsored by Foil, F.

Authorizes expanded use of electronic communications and notifications by the Department of Environmental Quality.

The act allows specified applications, notices, comments, regulatory correspondence, and other documents involving environmental permits, licenses, registrations, variances, hazardous and solid waste, underground storage tanks, remediation, and naturally occurring radioactive material to be submitted or delivered electronically. It also provides for electronic public-notice requests and gives specified electronic transmissions the same legal effect as required mailed notices.

SCR68 | Blockchain and Digital Innovation Task Force

Sponsored by Fesi, M., et al.

Creates the Task Force on Blockchain and Digital Innovation to study blockchain and other digital technologies and develop related policy recommendations.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB429 | Critical Infrastructure Security and Terrorism Offenses

Sponsored by Landry, J.

Expands criminal protections for critical energy and water infrastructure and adds specified infrastructure crimes as predicate acts for terrorism.

The act broadens the definition of critical infrastructure to include public drinking-water systems, sewer treatment facilities, and oil and natural gas facilities and operations. It also extends unauthorized entry provisions to specified unmanned aircraft activity and malicious electronic or digital access or interference.

Theft or unauthorized entry of critical infrastructure may constitute a terrorism predicate when committed with the statutorily required intent to intimidate or coerce a civilian population or influence government conduct, with the act establishing associated felony penalties.

HB1033 | Critical Infrastructure Definition

Sponsored by Bacala, T.

Expands the facilities and equipment covered by the state's critical infrastructure protections.

The act adds specified government and military facilities, oil and gas exploration platforms and equipment, and communications infrastructure to the statutory definition of critical infrastructure.

HB1095 | Nursing Facility Emergency Power

Sponsored by Hebert, T.

Revises emergency power requirements for nursing facilities.

The act requires a nursing facility to maintain an on-site fuel supply or another qualifying power generation source for its permanent emergency generator or alternative power system.

SB251 | Louisiana Critical Infrastructure Protection Act

Sponsored by Pressly, T., et al.

Restricts foreign adversary access and operational control over critical infrastructure.

The act prohibits companies and governmental entities from entering specified agreements with foreign principals from foreign adversaries when the agreement would provide direct or remote operational command authority over critical infrastructure. Covered infrastructure includes oil and gas systems, water systems, telecommunications networks, electric power delivery systems, emergency services, transportation systems, and data or cybersecurity systems.

The measure also restricts specified foreign adversary software used to exercise operational command authority and authorizes civil enforcement by the attorney general, subject to exceptions for federally authorized activities and other specified circumstances.

SR145 | Critical Infrastructure Foreign Adversary Task Force

Sponsored by Hodges, V.

Recreates the Task Force on Protecting Louisiana's Critical Infrastructure from Foreign Adversaries to continue examining threats to critical infrastructure and related state protections.

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

HB637 | Oilfield Site Restoration Fee Rates

Sponsored by Landry, J.

Revises oilfield site restoration fees for specified low-production oil and gas wells.

The act establishes reduced fee rates for incapable oil wells, stripper wells, gas produced from low-pressure oil wells, and incapable gas wells, replacing the prior calculation formula. The changes take effect July 1, 2026.

HR279 | Geothermal Energy Development

Sponsored by Orgeron, J.

Recognizes geothermal energy development as an opportunity for Louisiana and expresses support for conditions that facilitate expanded development and use of the state's geothermal resources.

HR289 | Proposed Well Site Location Redaction Review

Sponsored by Mack, S.

Requests the Department of Conservation and Energy to review policies governing the redaction of proposed oil and gas well site locations.

The department must report its findings and any recommended legislative changes to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment by March 1, 2027.

HR310 | Oil and Gas Well Decommissioning Liability Study

Sponsored by Braud, J.

Requests the Department of Conservation and Energy to study the state's potential financial liability for oil and gas well decommissioning.

The study must examine orphaned, inactive, and low-production wells, available decommissioning funding, and options for reducing future state liability, with findings due by March 1, 2027.

HCR104 | Subsurface Data Management Study

Sponsored by Coates, K.

Requests the Department of Conservation and Energy and the Louisiana Geological Survey to study the state's collection, retention, and accessibility of subsurface data.

The agencies must develop recommendations for managing geologic and other subsurface information used in energy and natural resource activities.

SCR6 | Port Fourchon LNG Facility

Sponsored by Fesi, M.

Expresses support for the development, construction, and long-term operation of a liquefied natural gas facility at Port Fourchon.

Renewable Energy

HB621 | Renewable Energy Infrastructure Recycling

Sponsored by Coates, K.; Chassion, T.

Requires renewable energy facility decommissioning plans to address recycling of facility components and infrastructure.

The measure requires recycling to the extent practicable and in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality regulations governing universal waste, recyclable materials, and recycling and waste reduction. The requirement applies beginning January 1, 2027.

HB670 | Wood Pellet and Biofuel Manufacturing

Sponsored by Owen, C., et al.

Directs Louisiana Economic Development to support wood pellet and wood-derived biofuel manufacturing.

The measure defines covered manufacturing activities and authorizes the department, within existing programs and available funding, to support recruitment, retention, and expansion through economic development incentives, workforce training, port and infrastructure coordination, site readiness, and regulatory assistance.

SB502 | Sugarcane Bagasse Biomass Storage

Sponsored by Cathey, S.

Limits local restrictions on the storage of sugarcane bagasse biomass.

The act defines covered bagasse biomass and prohibits parishes and municipalities from enacting or enforcing an ordinance that prohibits its storage when the material is stored under a best management practice plan approved in writing by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and provided to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Reorganization & Coordination

HB861 | Inactive Energy and Environmental Boards

Sponsored by Johnson, M., et al.

Abolishes specified inactive state boards and commissions, including an energy and environmental advisory body.

The act repeals the Advisory Commission for Louisiana's Energy, Environment, and Restoration and removes its statutory duties relating to energy education, energy efficiency, oil and gas production practices, energy resource research, and historical oilfield remediation.

HR295 | House Energy Caucus

Sponsored by Landry, J.; Chassion, T.; Spell, A.

Establishes the Energy Caucus in the Louisiana House of Representatives.

SB379 | Department of Conservation and Energy Revisions

Sponsored by Hensgens, B.

Revises authorities and terminology within the Department of Conservation and Energy following the state's energy and natural resources reorganization.

The act updates departmental offices and references to the secretary, including renaming the Office of Mineral Resources as the Office of State Resources, and revises duties related to energy and natural resource data, geological assessments, leasing, and financial administration. It also updates procedures affecting environmental and energy permitting, oilfield remediation, underground storage, judicial review, and intervention in department decisions.

Utilities

HB87 | Gas Utility District Board Compensation

Sponsored by Mack, S.

Revises compensation for members of the Livingston Parish Gas Utility District No. 1 Board of Commissioners.

The act increases the maximum per diem from \$75 to \$125 for attendance at board meetings and days devoted to district business, subject to the existing annual limit of 50 compensated days, while continuing to prohibit a salary.

HB464 | Utility Damage Reporting

Sponsored by Riser, N.; Knox, A.

Expands reporting requirements when excavation or demolition damages underground utility facilities.

In addition to immediately notifying the affected facility owner or operator, the person responsible for the excavation or demolition must notify the regional notification center. The center must then notify owners and operators with facilities in the area that may have been damaged.

HB478 | Utility Overcharge Reimbursements

Sponsored by Knox, A.; Larvadain, E.

Requires utility providers to reimburse customers for overcharges.

A provider must repay the full overcharge within 90 calendar days after the overcharge is discovered or reasonably should have been discovered, unless the utility regulator orders otherwise. The reimbursement must be identified as an overcharge reimbursement or similar description; former customers are reimbursed using their last known address, and regulators may order exemptions from the requirement.

HB990 | Water and Sewer Service Charge Liens

Sponsored by Lyons, R.

Extends lien authority for unpaid water and sewer service charges.

The act authorizes parishes, sewerage districts, and waterworks districts to assert a privilege against qualifying multifamily residential property for unpaid service charges or user fees, using the notice and collection procedures applicable to municipalities.

HB1096 | Electric Cooperative Bylaws

Sponsored by Landry, J.

Authorizes electric cooperative boards to adopt, amend, or repeal cooperative bylaws.

The measure places that authority with the board of directors unless the cooperative's existing bylaws provide otherwise.

HB1243 | New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board Oversight

Sponsored by Hilferty, S., et al.

Expands New Orleans City Council oversight of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

The act authorizes the city council to regulate and require approval of board rates and charges, operating and capital budgets, capital improvement plans, contracts, and policies governing billing, finance, operations, and governance. It also allows the council to prescribe board appointment and service rules, revises board leadership and drainage provisions, and authorizes council investigations of board matters.

HR118 | Residential Water Rate Tax Credit Study

Sponsored by Wright, M.; Jackson, S.

Creates a legislative subcommittee to study a potential state income tax credit for residential water utility customers paying excessive water rates.

The committee must evaluate the proposal and submit findings and recommendations before the 2027 Regular Session.

HR197 | Distributed Energy Generation and Storage Study

Sponsored by Orgeron, J., et al.

Requests the Public Service Commission to study distributed energy generation and storage as resources for meeting increased electricity demand.

The study must consider existing distributed capacity, aggregated resources such as virtual power plants, opportunities for private investment and partnerships, and potential reliability and resilience benefits, with findings due before the 2027 Regular Session.

SB469 | Underground Utility Damage Prevention

Sponsored by Abraham, M.

Revises requirements under the Louisiana Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law.

The act updates definitions and notification procedures, requires annual damage prevention training for at least one person at covered excavation or demolition sites, and expands use of electronic positive responses and facility location information. For certain federally funded broadband projects, it establishes advance notice and coordination procedures, including large project locate requests and rules governing excavation when markings are not timely provided, through August 1, 2030.

The measure also authorizes law enforcement to order work stopped for observable noncompliance until applicable damage prevention requirements are met.

SR148 | Utility Assistance Coordination Task Force

Sponsored by Barrow, R.; Allain, R.

Creates the Utility Assistance Coordination Task Force to study coordination among utility assistance programs and recommend measures to improve delivery of assistance within the state.

SR174 | Energy Infrastructure and Modernization Task Force

Sponsored by Henry, C.

Recreates the Task Force on Energy Infrastructure and Modernization to study and recommend policies supporting energy self-generation, industrial microgrids, and expedited permitting.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

HB721 | Shrimp Harvesting Hours

Sponsored by Kerner, T.; Chassion, T.

Creates an exception to night shrimping restrictions for specified inside waters.

The act allows licensed commercial shrimpers to begin trawling at 5:30 a.m. during an open shrimp season in Vermilion Bay and East and West Cote Blanche Bays.

HB799 | Boiler Safety Regulation

Sponsored by Fontenot, B.

Reorganizes state boiler safety regulation under the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The act repeals the State Board of Boiler Examiners, updates inspector qualifications and inspection procedures, revises certificate and inspection fees, and authorizes suspension or shutdown of unsafe boilers. It also replaces specified criminal penalties with a warning and civil penalty framework for continued noncompliance.

HB835 | Charter Guide Wildlife Management Area Permit

Sponsored by Schamerhorn, R.

Creates an access permit for charter fishing guides operating within wildlife management areas.

The act authorizes permitted charter guides to conduct fishing trips in wildlife management areas, sets the annual permit fee at \$100, and exempts participating clients from the otherwise applicable daily access permit.

HB858 | Wildlife GPS Data Confidentiality

Sponsored by Riser, N.

Exempts specified wildlife location data from public records disclosure.

The measure makes Global Positioning System data collected or held by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries confidential when disclosure would reveal the location of individual wildlife or aquatic animals.

HB1153 | Local Burn Ban Authority

Sponsored by Coates, K.

Authorizes parishes and municipalities to impose temporary burn bans during periods of elevated fire risk.

The act establishes notice and termination requirements, identifies covered forms of open burning and specified exceptions, and authorizes escalating civil penalties and recovery of fire-suppression or emergency response costs for violations.

HB1248 | White-tailed Deer Rehabilitation

Sponsored by Ventrella, L.

Authorizes permitted wildlife rehabilitators to possess white-tailed deer for rehabilitation.

The act creates an exception to otherwise applicable restrictions on possession of white-tailed deer when the animal is held by a qualified wildlife rehabilitator in accordance with state rehabilitation requirements.

HB1258 | Seized Wildlife Disposition

Sponsored by Geymann, B.; Ventrella, L.

Establishes procedures for evaluating and disposing of wildlife seized by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The act provides for release, transfer to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator, or placement at an appropriate facility when feasible and limits euthanasia to specified circumstances when other disposition options are not practicable.

HCR54 | Flooded Corn and Migratory Waterfowl Study

Sponsored by Fontenot, B., et al.

Requests the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study the effects of intentionally flooded standing corn on migratory waterfowl behavior.

The resolution also urges reinstatement of the federal enforcement approach that restricted hunting over intentionally flooded standing crops.

HCR79 | Hunting Dogs in Kisatchie National Forest

Sponsored by Butler, R., et al.

Memorializes Congress and the U.S. Forest Service to take actions necessary to allow the use of dogs for hunting in the Kisatchie National Forest.

HCR86 | Migratory Waterfowl Habitat Study

Sponsored by LaCombe, J., et al.

Expresses legislative support for a request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study how land use changes and habitat loss affect migratory waterfowl behavior.

HCR97 | Hunting and Conservation Education Study

Sponsored by Sawyer, P., et al.

Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to study incorporating hunting education, conservation education, and shooting sports courses into public school curricula for grades five through twelve.

The study must evaluate age- and grade-appropriate options for offering the courses.

SR158 | Backup Power for Residential Care Facilities

Sponsored by Womack, G.

Requests local governing authorities to consider ordinances requiring unlicensed residential facilities serving seniors or persons with disabilities to maintain generators or alternative sources of electrical power.

SCR54 | Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission

Sponsored by Womack, G.; Riser, N.

Memorializes Congress to authorize and fully fund the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission Act to support coordinated management of fisheries and aquatic resources in the basin.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB624 | Public School Emergency Operations Plans

Sponsored by Johnson, M.

Revises requirements for public school emergency operations planning and preparedness exercises.

The measure renames crisis management and response plans as emergency operations plans, requires school safety questionnaires, differentiates discussion- and operations-based exercises, and establishes security requirements for lockable instructional spaces while maintaining fire and building code compliance.

HR344/SCR84 | Seismic Monitoring Study

Sponsored by Schamerhorn, R.

Requests the Department of Conservation and Energy, in consultation with the United States Geological Survey and Tulane University, to study seismic activity in Northwest Louisiana.

The study must evaluate available earthquake data and the need for a statewide or multipurpose seismic monitoring network and report recommendations by February 1, 2027.

HCR62 | Flood Map Review Frequency

Sponsored by Domangue, J., et al.

Urges the Federal Emergency Management Agency to revise its flood map review schedule so Louisiana floodplain maps are reviewed and updated on a five-year cycle.

SB214 | Flood Mitigation Emergency Preparations

Sponsored by Hensgens, B.

Limits liability for specified flood mitigation actions taken in preparation for forecast weather events.

The act provides that qualifying political subdivisions with authority over freshwater systems, and their officers, employees, and agents, are not liable for damages resulting from reducing or ceasing pumping or operating water control structures to lower water levels under an operational plan for a weather event forecast by the National Weather Service or the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The protection does not apply to gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

Emissions & Pollution

HB758 | Department of Environmental Quality Fees

Sponsored by Brass, K.

Restructures fees administered by the Department of Environmental Quality and expands related regulatory authority.

The act authorizes revised fee schedules for environmental programs including air, water, solid waste, hazardous waste, radiation, laboratory accreditation, and groundwater activities; permits specified adjustments and late charges; and transfers regulatory jurisdiction over groundwater protection and underground storage tanks to the department.

HB804 | Louisiana Energy Protection Act

Sponsored by Geymann, B.

Limits state law civil actions seeking climate change damages attributed to greenhouse gas emissions.

The act establishes procedures and liability limitations for covered claims against energy producers, users, and related industries and provides that specified climate change damage claims based on greenhouse gas emissions are governed or preempted by federal law.

SB189 | Atmospheric Dispersion Prohibition

Sponsored by Fesi, M.

Expands the prohibition on intentional chemical releases intended to affect temperature.

The measure specifies that the prohibited release or dispersion of chemicals into the environment includes releases accomplished by burning fuel when undertaken for the express purpose of affecting temperature.

SCR69 | Sugarcane Burning Reduction Technology

Sponsored by Allain, R., et al.

Requests agricultural organizations, universities, and equipment manufacturers to continue research and technology development aimed at reducing dependence on sugarcane burning.

Hazardous Waste

HB417 | Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Fund Balance

Sponsored by Zeringue, J.

Raises the maximum balance of the Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Fund to \$6 million.

Once the fund reaches that amount, remaining qualifying collections are directed to the Environmental Trust Dedicated Fund Account.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB802 | Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund

Sponsored by Sawyer, P.; McMakin, D.

Creates a dedicated fund for watershed reclamation, restoration, and long-term stewardship in the Amite River Basin.

The act directs specified sand severance tax revenues generated within the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District to the Watershed Restoration and Conservation Fund and prioritizes projects in flood-prone or impaired watersheds affected by sand and gravel mining. It also establishes reporting requirements for deposits and expenditures.

HR367 | Shreveport Clean Water Task Force

Sponsored by Walters, J.

Re-creates the Clean Water Task Force to continue studying the public water system in Shreveport and develop recommendations concerning system conditions and water service.

HR374 | Surface Water Withdrawal Agreements Study

Sponsored by Firment, G.

Requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Conservation and Energy to study cooperative endeavor agreements governing surface water withdrawals.

The departments must summarize existing practices and provide findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment before the 2027 Regular Session.

HCR103 | Backflow Prevention Inspection Study

Sponsored by Crews, R.

Requests a review of inspection and testing frequencies for backflow prevention devices and related safeguards.

The State Uniform Construction Code Council and Department of Health are asked to evaluate whether inspection intervals for backflow preventers, barometric loops, and air gaps can be adjusted based on application and risk while maintaining drinking water protections.

SB4 | Water Fluoridation Exemptions

Sponsored by Fesj, M., et al.

Expands the process through which a public water system may obtain an exemption from state fluoridation requirements.

The act permits an exemption after a petition signed by at least 15 percent of registered voters served by the system and approval by a majority of voters participating in a local election. It retains the requirement that qualifying public water systems fluoridate when sufficient state funding is available.

SB268 | Lead Service Line Replacement Access

Sponsored by Duplessis, R., et al.

Authorizes local access to private property for lead service line replacement.

The act permits a municipality to adopt an ordinance allowing the municipality, a municipal water system, or an authorized agent to enter property for the limited purpose of replacing a lead service line. Except in an emergency, the property owner and residents must receive at least seven days' notice, and the responsible entity must provide written notice after the work is completed.

SB324 | Water Sector Program Administration

Sponsored by Reese, M.

Revises administration of the Water Sector Program and its grant process.

The act modifies agency participation in program administration, allows specified emergency grants to include expenses related to a limited fiscal administrator or receiver, and requires program guidance to address rate studies, matching funds, and related expenses. It extends the period for project ratings, permits additional grant recommendations based on existing ratings, authorizes grant rescission for noncompliance, and allows approved project scope modifications.

SR144 | Upper Pontchartrain Basin Task Force

Sponsored by Wheat, W.

Establishes the Upper Pontchartrain Basin Task Force to assess conditions in the basin and make recommendations related to its management.

The resolution also requests suspension of approval of specified permits while the basin assessment is conducted.

SR179 | Community Water System Accountability Review

Sponsored by Mizell, B.

Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to review the point values used to assign letter grades under the Community Water System Accountability framework.

SCR29 | Atchafalaya Basin Water Quality Study

Sponsored by Kleinpeter, C.; Chassion, T.

Creates a joint legislative committee to study water quality in the Atchafalaya Basin and develop related recommendations.

Land Management

HB987 | Louisiana Geological Survey Realignment

Sponsored by McFarland, J.

Places the Louisiana Geological Survey within the Louisiana State University Energy Institute.

The act realigns responsibility for geologic and energy-related programs and data, authorizes cooperative agreements, and provides for coordination with state agencies on collection, storage, maintenance, and use of geological information.

HR314 | Gravel Mining Reclamation Study

Sponsored by Carter, R.

Requests the Department of Conservation and Energy to study implementation of reclamation and conservation requirements for gravel surface mining and provide recommendations regarding their administration.

HR335 | Land Use Enforcement Limitations Study

Sponsored by Muscarello, N.

Directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study time limitations applicable to actions enforcing local zoning, building, and subdivision restrictions.

The institute must evaluate existing prescription rules and submit findings and recommended legislation by March 1, 2027.

HR343 | Supporting Federal Ownership of Kisatchie National Forest Lands

Sponsored by Firment, G., et al.

Memorializes Congress to oppose any effort to transfer, divest, privatize, or dispose of Kisatchie National Forest lands or otherwise remove such lands from federal ownership and management.

HCR61 | Expropriation Authority Study

Sponsored by Owen, C.

Directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the constitutional authority of public and private entities to expropriate property.

The study must review the Louisiana Supreme Court's 2026 decision in *Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District v. Nguyen* and its implications for state expropriation law and report recommendations by February 1, 2027.

SB466 | Foreign Entity Expropriation Near Military Bases

Sponsored by Seabaugh, A.

Restricts expropriation authority for specified foreign adversary entities near military installations.

The act prohibits a foreign power, alien, or corporation majority-controlled by a foreign adversary identified under federal law and federal sanctions records from expropriating property located within 50 miles of a military base.

Reorganization & Coordination

HB697 | Department of Environmental Quality Re-creation

Sponsored by Geymann, B.

Re-creates the Department of Environmental Quality and its statutory entities under Louisiana's sunset law.

The act extends the department's existence through July 1, 2031, with the statutory termination process beginning July 1, 2030, unless the department is re-created again.

HB847 | Soil and Water Conservation District Elections

Sponsored by Butler, R.

Revises election and service requirements for soil and water conservation district supervisors.

The act transfers election administration responsibilities to the secretary of state, requires nomination petitions to be certified by the parish registrar of voters, and updates election procedures, supervisor terms, vacancy provisions, and attendance requirements.

HR274 | Louisiana Climate Action Plan Review

Sponsored by Owen, C.

Requests the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to review the Climate Initiatives Task Force and the Louisiana Climate Action Plan.

The review includes the 2022 Climate Action Plan and subsequent planning documents developed from the task force's recommendations.

HR345 | Seismic Activity Task Force

Sponsored by Schamerhorn, R.

Creates the Task Force on Seismic Activity to study the prevalence and causes of earthquakes in North Louisiana.

The task force must develop findings and recommendations concerning seismic activity and present its work to the Legislature by March 1, 2027.

Solid Waste

HR225 | Ouachita Parish Waste and Disaster Resiliency Study

Sponsored by Echols, M.

Requests a study of parish-wide solid waste, debris removal, and disaster resiliency services in Ouachita Parish.

The participating state and local entities must evaluate coordinated or consolidated service models, public-private partnerships, and funding options and report findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026.

HCR85 | Illegal Dumping Task Force

Sponsored by Knox, A.

Creates a task force to study illegal dumping in Louisiana and develop recommendations for addressing improper disposal of waste.

SB496 | Copper and Brass Scrap Transactions

Sponsored by Connick, P.

Strengthens identification, recordkeeping, and payment requirements for purchases of specified copper and brass materials by scrap metal dealers and recyclers.

The act requires operators to obtain identifying information, a photograph, a thumbprint, and qualifying identification for covered transactions and to transmit photographs of purchased copper and brass to an electronic database accessible to law enforcement. It prohibits cash payments for specified copper, brass, and air-conditioning coil transactions and requires delayed payment by check or loadable payment card, subject to stated verification and record-retention requirements.

MARYLAND

In Brief: **HB1532** (Utility RELIEF Act) incorporates language from a previous bill introduced by Board member Del. Lorig Charkoudian and is the legislative centerpiece, combining energy assistance, rate regulation, large-load customer registration, grid-enhancing technologies, and data center restrictions. Board member Sen. Brian Feldman sponsored **SB625**, directing a permitting framework for biochar and wood-vault carbon sequestration. **HB925 & SB719** establish PFAS thresholds and monitoring for sewage sludge, a major emerging water-quality issue. **HB833 & SB553** revive and expand the state's lithium-ion battery safety commission, covering utility-scale storage, recycling, and first-responder risks. Maryland also continued pairing affordability with decarbonization, as **HB1164 & SB556** authorize limited-income water and sewer rate mechanisms and **HB1219 & SB739** study climate, insurance, and disaster preparedness.

Energy Legislation

Carbon Capture & Storage

SB625 | Biochar and Wood Vault Carbon Sequestration

Sponsored by Feldman, B.

Requires the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to establish a permitting framework for carbon dioxide capture, removal, and sequestration projects using biochar or wood vault technologies.

The department must adopt the required regulations and standards by January 1, 2028.

Cybersecurity & Digital Technology

HB470 & SB376 | Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force

Sponsored by Boafó, A.; Amprey, M.; Taylor, K.; Vogel, J.; Watson, R.

Establishes the Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force to study the use and regulation of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency in Maryland.

The task force must submit findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified legislative committees by October 1, 2027.

SB905 | Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program

Sponsored by Zucker, C.; Beidle, P.; Hayes, A.

Establishes the Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation.

The program provides grants to support companies specializing in regenerative medicine and other advanced manufacturing, and grant proceeds may be used for acquisitions, facility renovation or construction, infrastructure improvements, and equipment purchases.

Efficiency & Weatherization

HB321 | Synthetic Turf Disposal Study Deadline

Sponsored by Lehman, M.

Extends the deadline for the Department of the Environment's report on the synthetic turf industry and disposal of synthetic turf from July 1, 2026, to January 15, 2027.

SB48 | Public School Facility Assessments and Energy Systems

Sponsored by Budget and Taxation

Revises public school construction and facility assessment requirements affecting building systems, indoor environmental conditions, and energy technologies.

Statewide facilities assessments must include specified data on temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide, lead paint, asbestos, lighting, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, life-safety systems, roofs, and other critical building systems. The act also applies specified construction review requirements to non-like-for-like HVAC replacements and updates annual reporting on school construction and major renovation projects that used solar technologies or alternative energy systems.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB593 & SB482 | Critical Infrastructure Interference

Sponsored by Hill, T., et al.; McKay, M.; Kagan, C.

Creates a felony offense for intentionally and without authorization interfering with critical infrastructure or a public safety answering point.

The measure applies when a person acts with intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of covered infrastructure and establishes a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment, a \$50,000 fine, or both.

Renewable Energy

HB734 & SB344 | Community Solar Agricultural Use Assessment

Sponsored by Roberson, K.; King, N.; Hester, K.

Extends the deadline for certain community solar energy generating systems to qualify land for an agricultural use assessment.

The act changes the Public Service Commission approval deadline from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2030, and establishes a preconstruction determination process for agrivoltaic projects. The State Department of Assessments and Taxation must review completed applications within 90 days, may rescind determinations for specified noncompliance or material project changes, and may charge an application fee to recover administrative costs.

Reorganization & Coordination

HB640 | Energy and Environmental Board and Reporting Revisions

Sponsored by Government, Labor, and Elections

Revises specified energy and environmental boards, duties, and reporting requirements as part of a broader government streamlining measure.

The act repeals the Renewable Fuels Incentive Board and transfers administration of renewable fuel production credit certifications and payments to the Department of Agriculture. It also repeals the

Commission on Climate Change's annual report on the Oil Contaminated Site Environmental Cleanup Fund and reduces the membership of the Hart-Miller-Pleasure Island Citizens Oversight Committee.

SB223 | Conservation Loan Program Transfer

Sponsored by Education, Energy, and the Environment

Transfers the Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program from the Maryland Energy Administration to the Maryland Clean Energy Center.

The center assumes administration of the program, which provides low- and zero-interest loans for projects that promote energy conservation, reduce fossil fuel consumption, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The center also assumes responsibility for holding and investing the Jane E. Lawton Conservation Fund, and the act revises reporting requirements for the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

Utilities

HB220 & SB130 | Residential Water Submeters

Sponsored by Charkoudian, L.; Guyton, M.; Henson, S.

Authorizes individual water submeters for residential units in apartment houses and mobile home parks and establishes related billing protections.

The measure requires charges to be allocated according to actual water use and prohibits occupants from being charged for owner-responsible leaks, common area use, or nonresidential use. It limits administrative fees, establishes billing methods when a submeter is inaccurate, requires recordkeeping and complaint procedures, and sets notice and lease requirements when tenants must pay a third party for water or sewer service.

HB405 | Condominium and HOA EV Charging Equipment

Sponsored by Terrasa, J., et al.

Limits condominium and homeowners association restrictions on electric vehicle charging equipment in common areas.

The measure prohibits governing documents from unreasonably restricting a governing body's installation or authorization of EV recharging equipment and makes such installations subject to the association's budget process for comparable common area renovations or alterations.

HB648 | Energy Assistance Redetermination Eligibility

Sponsored by Environment and Transportation

Expands eligibility for a uniform redetermination process used to maintain enrollment in energy assistance programs.

The measure lowers the qualifying age for eligible energy customers from 65 to 60.

HB833 & SB553 | Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Commission

Sponsored by Boyce, R., et al.; Augustine, M.

Reestablishes the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland with expanded membership and study responsibilities.

The commission must evaluate fire prevention, detection, and suppression for consumer, transportation, utility-scale storage, and recycling applications; battery reuse, recycling, decommissioning, collection, and storage; extended producer responsibility; first-responder training; transportation and insurance risks;

and applicable federal and third-party standards. An interim report is due December 1, 2026, and final recommendations are due December 1, 2027.

HB969 & SB649 | Retail Electric Vehicle Fuel Standards

Sponsored by Allen, N.; Guyton, M.; Healey, A.; Hettelman, S.

Establishes measurement, disclosure, and fee requirements for electricity sold at retail as vehicle fuel.

Electricity must be measured and sold in kilowatt-hours, and customers may be charged for electricity only for the kilowatt-hours dispensed during a charging session. Charging equipment must display local responsible party contact information, and additional service fees may be fixed or time-based but may be imposed only at the conclusion of a charging session and must be itemized on the customer's receipt.

HB1164 & SB556 | Limited-Income Water and Sewer Rates

Sponsored by Foley, L.; Gallion, J.

Authorizes the Public Service Commission to require a regulated water company, sewage disposal company, or combined water and sewage disposal company to adopt a commission-approved mechanism benefiting limited-income customers.

The commission must also study the feasibility of requiring such mechanisms and report its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026.

HB1532 | Utility RELIEF Act

Sponsored by Korman, M., et al.

Revises utility regulation, energy assistance, clean energy programs, and generation planning through the Utility RELIEF Act.

The act transfers the electric universal service program to the Office of Home Energy Programs, establishes a green and renewable energy efficiency loan program for nonprofits, and modifies residential and community solar permitting, interconnection, and net-metering provisions. It also revises energy efficiency and greenhouse gas programs, energy storage incentives, Strategic Energy Investment Fund uses, alternative compliance fee administration, and provisions related to nuclear and other large-capacity energy resources.

Transmission line owners and operators are required to report significant transmission congestion costs during the preceding three years and foreseeable transmission constraints over the following five years, including resulting costs to ratepayers and the feasibility and cost of using advanced transmission technologies and other alternatives to relieve congestion. If feasible, the report must propose an advanced transmission technology implementation plan.

Applicants seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a transmission line are required by the act to demonstrate consideration of advanced transmission technologies and whether they could address the same need more efficiently or cost-effectively than the proposed line.

The measure further changes multi-year rate plans and utility cost recovery, establishes requirements and a registry for large-load customers, directs Public Service Commission dashboards and proceedings, modifies generation siting and procurement requirements, requires specified transmission owners to participate in a regional transmission organization, and restricts data center construction in certain Baltimore City development districts.

SB461 | Heat and Eat Utility Allowance Study

Sponsored by McCray, C.

Requires the Department of Human Services to study how federal changes may affect automatic eligibility for the standard utility allowance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's Heat and Eat Program.

The study must estimate the number of households potentially excluded from automatic eligibility following enactment of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 and report findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026.

Environmental Legislation

Coastal Zone Management

HB247 | Critical Area Variance Standards

Sponsored by Environment and Transportation; Behler, D.; Stein, D.

Revises variance standards under the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program.

The measure limits the types of relief that may be obtained through a variance, requires applicants to demonstrate a substantial need not based on convenience, personal preference, or financial advantage, and requires development to be located outside a habitat protection area when possible. It also clarifies comparison standards for accessory structures and requires appeals of administrative variance decisions to be heard on the record with deference to the administrative officer's factual findings.

HB258 | Critical Area Program Standards and Procedures

Sponsored by Environment and Transportation, et al.

Updates standards and administrative procedures under the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program.

The measure revises provisions governing approval of regulations, comprehensive reviews of local critical area programs, locational standards for growth allocation, correction of mapping errors, and tree replanting requirements.

HB613 | Living Shoreline Waiver Standards

Sponsored by Morgan, T., et al.

Revises the process for evaluating living shoreline and nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures.

The measure applies to projects with any portion located in an area not mapped by the Department of the Environment as appropriate for structural stabilization, authorizes use of living shorelines as an erosion control measure, and requires department regulations to establish evaluation procedures and a scoring system for specified waiver requests.

Community & Environmental Health

HB218 & SB184 | Environmental Crimes Reporting Deadline

Sponsored by Environment and Transportation; Education, Energy, and the Environment

Changes the annual reporting deadline for the Office of the Attorney General's Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit from November 30 to October 1.

The report covers activities of the unit and actions taken by the Department of the Environment and Department of Natural Resources in response to its findings.

HB252 | Lead Paint Abatement Financial Assurance

Sponsored by Environment and Transportation

Authorizes the Department of the Environment to require accredited lead paint abatement service providers to maintain a reasonable performance bond or reasonable liability insurance under department regulations.

HB254 | Supporting Inclusive Community Adaptation Act

Sponsored by Environment and Transportation

Expands community participation and funding for nature-based climate resilience projects.

The act requires the Department of Natural Resources to facilitate community participation in project planning and development and establishes the Resilience Through Restoration Capital Grant Fund for nature-based restoration projects intended to reduce climate vulnerability. It also requires the department to develop a website, guidance, and training for related tools and resources by October 1, 2027, and to undertake specified climate adaptation actions by December 31, 2035.

HB255 & SB164 | Tree-Mendous Maryland Program

Sponsored by Environment and Transportation; Boyce, R.; Holmes, M.; Odom, D.; Education, Energy, and the Environment

Expands the purpose of the Pamela J. Kelly Tree-Mendous Maryland Program.

The measure adds promotion of community participation in tree planting and stewardship and the planting and maintenance of native trees and shrubs through community forestry activities.

HB395 & SB371 | Animal Feeding Operation Construction Approvals

Sponsored by Boyce, R., et al.; Carozza, M.; Mautz, J.; Gallion, J.; Hershey, S.

Revises permitting requirements for construction of new animal feeding operations.

The measure repeals the requirement that a person obtain a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) general discharge permit before beginning construction of any part of a new CAFO and authorizes the Department of the Environment, under specified circumstances, to allow construction of a new animal feeding operation through a department-established approval process.

HB533 & SB257 | Woodland Incentives Fund Reporting

Sponsored by Stein, D.; Simonaire, B.

Adds reporting requirements for the Mel Noland Woodland Incentives and Fellowship Fund.

The measure requires the Department of Natural Resources to report the amount of agricultural land transfer tax proceeds attributable to instruments transferring parcels composed entirely of woodland that were distributed to the fund during the preceding fiscal year and to identify uncertainties in determining those amounts.

HB578 & SB431 | Endangered Species and Essential Habitats

Sponsored by Palakovich Carr, J., et al.; Brooks, B.

Revises state procedures for endangered and threatened species, essential habitats, and specified wildlife takings.

The measure requires periodic review of Irreplaceable Natural Areas regulations, establishes circumstances for delisting endangered or threatened species, and authorizes management protocols for designated

essential habitats. It also directs the Department of Natural Resources to adopt regulations authorizing the taking of black vultures under specified circumstances and makes related changes to species petitions and wildlife protections.

HB947 & SB610 | Invasive Blue Catfish Pilot Program

Sponsored by Sample-Hughes, S., et al.; Mautz, J.

Expands the Invasive Blue Catfish Pilot Program to include the Blue Catfish Gill Net Program and other programs the Department of Natural Resources determines are effective in limiting the spread of blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Beginning in 2026, the department must report annually on program activities, findings, and recommendations.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB1219 & SB739 | Climate, Insurance, and Disaster Preparedness Study

Sponsored by Fraser-Hidalgo, D., et al.; Kramer, B.

Requires the University System of Maryland to study the relationship between climate change, homeowner's insurance, and emergency and disaster preparedness.

The study must address the National Flood Insurance Program, the private flood insurance market, insurer service and responsiveness, and options for encouraging investments that protect homes from extreme weather. A report is due to the General Assembly by July 1, 2027.

Emissions & Pollution

HB451 | Zero Emission EV Infrastructure Council

Sponsored by Fraser-Hidalgo, D., et al.

Modifies the membership and duties of the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council.

The measure redefines a “zero emission electric vehicle” to include a plug-in electric drive vehicle and removes fuel cell electric vehicles from the definition, and it alters the Council’s membership by adding the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary’s designee and removing representatives of institutions of higher education, fuel cell electric vehicle manufacturers, fuel cell electric vehicle infrastructure equipment manufacturers, and the retail electric supplier community.

Further, the bill revises the Council’s duties to require it to: identify barriers and challenges to integrating zero emission electric vehicle charging infrastructure into the state transportation network; identify, develop, and recommend policies and best practices for integrating charging infrastructure, including in residential and commercial areas and buildings; and convene state and local agencies, officials, and other stakeholders to coordinate related policies and best practices. The council is also required to establish performance measures for meeting zero emission electric vehicle use, infrastructure, and regulatory goals, develop targeted policies supporting fleet purchases, develop charging solutions for existing and future multidwelling units, and pursue other objectives promoting zero emission electric vehicle use.

The council must submit annual reports on its work and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly beginning December 1, 2026, and the act repeals the council’s termination date.

Hazardous Waste

HB925 & SB719 | PFAS in Sewage Sludge

Sponsored by Stein, D., et al.; Love, S.; Hester, K.

Establishes per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) thresholds, monitoring, and mitigation requirements for sewage sludge intended for land application.

Beginning October 1, 2028, sewage sludge or products containing sewage sludge with combined PFOA and PFOS concentrations of at least 50 parts per billion may not be land applied, while material with concentrations of at least 25 but less than 50 parts per billion is subject to specified temporary management, source-tracking, mitigation, and notice requirements. The act allows regulated commingling to reduce concentrations below 25 parts per billion, establishes sampling protocols, and authorizes industrial pretreatment standards and related rates or fees for PFAS discharges.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB200 | Residential Flood Risk Disclosure

Sponsored by Lehman, M., et al.

Requires standardized flood risk disclosures for specified residential real property sales.

The measure directs the Department of the Environment to develop and maintain a disclosure form addressing a property's flood risk and history. Beginning July 1, 2027, a seller of covered residential property must provide a completed form to the purchaser before entering into a sales contract.

HB250 | Water Use and Dam Safety Enforcement

Sponsored by Environment and Transportation; Odom, D.

Expands Department of the Environment enforcement authority for water appropriation, water use, and dam safety violations.

The measure authorizes administrative penalties for specified violations, removes a limitation on the department's authority to issue certain dam safety orders and notices, and establishes procedural requirements that must be satisfied before specified civil or administrative penalties are imposed.

HB1071 & SB861 | Agritourism Stormwater Management

Sponsored by Foley, L., et al.; Zucker, C.; Feldman, B.

Requires the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations that consider specified best management practices for stormwater management at agritourism operations.

The measure also directs Montgomery County and the Montgomery Soil Conservation District, in consultation with the department, to review processes for approving certain agritourism stormwater management plans and report their findings by December 31, 2026.

HB1196 & SB940 | Secondary Drinking Water Standards Action Plan

Sponsored by Long, J., et al.; Henson, S.

Requires the Department of the Environment to develop a statewide action plan for enforcing secondary maximum contaminant level standards at community and nontransient, noncommunity water systems.

The plan must address water discoloration, taste, and odor, and the department must report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026.

SB189 | Open Drainage Inlet Improvements

Sponsored by Lewis Young, K.

Requires municipalities to inventory and prioritize improvements to open drainage inlets.

Municipalities must complete an inventory by July 1, 2027, and develop a prioritization plan by April 1, 2028. The measure also directs that, in specified fiscal years, a portion of funding appropriated to the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program be used as matching assistance for municipal improvement costs.

SB523 | Vernal Pool Identification

Sponsored by Washington, M.

Requires the Department of Natural Resources, in coordination with the Department of the Environment, to identify vernal pools and create and maintain a statewide list.

The measure directs the Department of Natural Resources to establish identification criteria and procedures and publish the list online. The Department of the Environment must designate staff for vernal pool identification training and notify the Department of Natural Resources when trained staff identify locations that may qualify for inclusion on the list.

Land Management

HB548 & SB325 | Maryland Housing Certainty Act

Sponsored by Behler, D., et al.; Augustine, M.

Establishes vesting protections for approved housing development projects under local land use laws.

The act requires project applications to be governed by applicable laws and regulations in effect when a complete application is submitted and grants approved projects vested use and development rights for at least five years, or a longer period established by the local regulatory authority or the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

HB654 & SB638 | Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Funding

Sponsored by Behler, D., et al.; Corderman, P., et al.

Revises grant, loan, matching fund, and operating expense provisions for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

The measure authorizes the authority to award specified grants and loans and determine appropriate matching fund proportions, while repealing certain prior grant and loan requirements. It also reduces the share of Program Open Space funds transferred to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund that may be used for operating expenses from 10 percent to 7 percent or \$600,000, whichever is greater.

HB870 | Large Building Permit Notice

Sponsored by Korman, M., et al.

Requires local governments to notify the Department of the Environment when accepting permit applications for certain large new buildings.

Beginning July 1, 2026, a county or municipality must provide notice within 10 business days after accepting an application for a new building with at least 35,000 square feet of proposed gross floor area.

HB1137 & SB829 | Residential-in-Commercial-Zone Study

Sponsored by Allen, N.; Waldstreicher, J.

Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to study laws that would require certain local jurisdictions to allow specified residential or mixed-use developments as permitted uses on commercially zoned parcels or lots.

The department must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2026.

HB1267 | Patuxent Research Refuge Zoning Protections

Sponsored by Lehman, M., et al.

Establishes land-use protections for the Patuxent Research Refuge and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

The act requires covered property to remain zoned for open space, reserved open space, or resource conservation uses and maintains those restrictions if federal property is sold, leased, licensed, or otherwise encumbered. It also restricts conversion of central natural areas and requires a public hearing and consultation with the Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment before development may proceed on a finding that it will not substantially affect a central natural area.

Reorganization & Coordination

HB663 | Federal Environmental Policy Reporting

Sponsored by Rosenberg, S., et al.

Requires the Department of the Environment to report semiannually on changes in federal environmental policy that have been deemed legally valid by a final federal court decision.

When such a change occurs, the report must describe the steps the state is taking in response.

Solid Waste

HB429 & SB599 | On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grants

Sponsored by Boyce, R., et al.; Hester, K.; Hettleman, S.

Establishes the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program beginning July 1, 2028.

The program, administered by the Department of Agriculture, provides grants for on-farm organics recycling, compost use, wasted-food prevention, and food rescue. The measure requires an annual \$250,000 budget appropriation and annual reporting on program impacts beginning December 31, 2028.

HB848 & SB621 | Trash and Recycling Fire Code

Sponsored by Stein, D.; Watson, R.; Salling, J.

Requires the State Fire Prevention Commission to incorporate specified provisions of the 2024 National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code into state regulations.

The regulations must authorize the placement of trash and recyclable materials in corridors and exits when done in accordance with the referenced Life Safety Code provisions.

MISSISSIPPI

In Brief: Board member Rep. Brent Powell sponsored **HB1393**, creating an Energy Infrastructure Fund for transmission, substations, pipelines, and other infrastructure supporting economic development, and **HB1632**, establishing statewide performance grading for drinking water and wastewater systems. **SB3410** is a major data center measure, authorizing long-term water and wastewater infrastructure agreements, including reclaimed-water use. Board member Sen. Joel Carter also sponsored **SB2527** on solar decommissioning. **SB3229** creates a financing mechanism for utility restoration costs from the 2026 winter storm, while **SB2760** consolidates surface-mining and reclamation responsibilities within the Department of Environmental Quality. Together, the measures emphasize growth, resilience, utility accountability, and resource management.

Energy Legislation

Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements

SB2760 | Surface Mining Regulatory Responsibilities

Sponsored by Rhodes, B.

Transfers specified surface mining and reclamation responsibilities from the State Geologist and Office of Geology and Energy Resources to the Department of Environmental Quality.

The measure assigns the department and its staff responsibility for permitting reviews, investigations, land and reclamation evaluations, consultation with surface owners, and maintenance of the state's abandoned mine reclamation program, with related authority exercised through the department's executive director and Permit Board.

Cybersecurity & Digital Technology

HB1723 | Artificial Intelligence Definition

Sponsored by Ford, J.; Scott, O.

Defines artificial intelligence (AI) in Mississippi law.

The measure defines AI as a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine- and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or action, according to the measure.

Efficiency & Weatherization

SB2308 | Building Energy Efficiency Standards

Sponsored by Carter, J.

Extends the repeal date for state energy efficiency standards governing building design, construction, and alteration to July 1, 2029.

SB2409 | Strengthen Mississippi Homes Program

Sponsored by Michel, W., et al.

Expands the state's residential windstorm mitigation grant program.

The act renames the Comprehensive Hurricane Damage Mitigation Program as the Strengthen Mississippi Homes Program and broadens eligible mitigation beyond hurricanes to include tornadoes, hail, and other catastrophic windstorms. It increases the maximum grant to \$10,000 per home, authorizes the Department of Insurance to establish grant criteria by rule, creates an advisory council and reporting requirements, renames the program fund, and removes the program's repealer.

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

HB1073 | Fuel Source Choice for Equipment and Vehicles

Sponsored by Powell, B.; Hale, J.

Expands Mississippi's Consumer Freedom of Choice Act to farm equipment, motor vehicles, and lawn tools.

The act prohibits state and local governmental entities from enacting or enforcing rules that restrict or prohibit the sale or use of covered equipment or vehicles based on fuel source. It preserves governmental authority to enforce safe-use requirements consistent with manufacturer recommendations and existing public safety powers.

SB2787 | School Gas Piping System Testing

Sponsored by Carter, J.

Requires annual testing of liquefied petroleum gas piping systems in school facilities.

Tests must follow NFPA 54 and rules of the State Liquefied Compressed Gas Board, with results reported to the Department of Education within 30 days. Schools must notify their LPG distributors, distributors must retain the notices and discontinue service when required for unsafe or untested systems, and identified leaks must be reported. The act also revises existing requirements for natural gas piping tests.

Renewable Energy

SB2527 | Solar Facility Decommissioning

Sponsored by Carter, J.; McCaughn, T.

Establishes decommissioning and financial assurance requirements for solar energy facilities.

The measure requires decommissioning agreements to address removal of equipment and site restoration and specifies acceptable forms and amounts of financial assurance. It also defines the circumstances under which local governments may regulate decommissioning and provides enforcement and remedy provisions.

Utilities

HB1305 | Municipal Utility Audits

Sponsored by Powell, B.

Authorizes the Public Service Commission to contract for annual third-party audits of certain municipally owned and operated public utilities.

An audit may be conducted when a utility receives a D or F rating from the Department of Health under specified law, when requested by the municipal mayor, or when requested by a supermajority of the board

of aldermen or city council. The utility bears the audit cost, findings must be reported to the commission and Public Utilities Staff by December 1, and violations are subject to a commission-set civil fine.

HB1393 | Mississippi Energy Infrastructure Fund

Sponsored by Powell, B.; Hale, J.

Creates the Mississippi Energy Infrastructure Fund within the State Treasury to support energy infrastructure for approved economic development projects.

The Mississippi Development Authority may provide grants, loans, or other financial assistance to local entities for projects and related facilities, including long lead-time electrical equipment, transmission lines and pipelines, substation capacity, rights-of-way, transformers, breakers, and other energy infrastructure. Electric utility providers may not receive funding directly, and the program is repealed July 1, 2029.

HB1404 | Fraudulent Utility Payment Diversion

Sponsored by Yates, S.; Mansell, C.; Felsher, K.

Creates an offense for knowingly diverting utility payments collected through a lease or rental agreement.

A person who receives money designated for utility service may not knowingly fail to apply it to the utility bill within 60 days of receiving the bill or use deception to avoid payment. Penalties are graduated according to the amount misappropriated and include restitution; covered utility services include water, electricity, gas, heat, and sewer service.

HB1563 | Municipal Utility Governance and Water Board Training

Sponsored by McMillan, J.

Revises governance requirements for municipal utilities and community public water systems.

The act requires two members of a municipal utility commission to be residential customers receiving the utility's service outside municipal boundaries. It also requires members of governing boards of community public water systems to complete management training, including systems previously exempt based on municipal population.

HB1870 | Choctaw Sewer Utility District

Sponsored by Sanders, R.

Authorizes Bolivar County to create a utility district to acquire and operate the Choctaw Sewer Association system.

The district may own, control, operate, maintain, repair, and improve the sewer system, and the county and existing association may transfer property, assets, funds, or services needed to establish and maintain the district.

HB1989 | Nonprofit Utility Sales Tax Exemption

Sponsored by Bounds, S.

Exempts certain utility sales to qualifying nonprofit organizations from state sales tax.

The exemption applies when the nonprofit's property is used primarily for specified agricultural exhibitions, livestock shows, amusement or entertainment activities, and related temporary lodging, as provided by the act.

SB2310 | Municipal Water Service Certificates

Sponsored by Williams, B.

Authorizes the Public Service Commission to cancel a municipality's certificate to provide water service outside its corporate limits when service is inadequate.

The authority applies to certificated service areas located more than one mile beyond the municipality's boundaries and is conditioned on the commission making the findings required by the act.

SB3116 | Battery Storage Property Tax Exemptions

Sponsored by Harkins, J.

Adds battery energy storage facilities to projects eligible for local ad valorem property tax exemptions.

The measure allows counties and municipalities to grant qualifying battery storage projects the exemptions authorized for specified energy and industrial projects, including county exemptions of up to 50 percent of total assessed value, and extends the applicable statutory reverter date.

SB3229 | Winter Storm Utility Restoration Financing

Sponsored by Harkins, J.; Simmons, D.; Simmons, S.

Establishes a bond financing mechanism for electric utility restoration costs arising from the 2026 severe winter storm.

Electric utilities may petition the Public Service Commission for financing orders supporting state bond issuance for approved repair costs. The orders require collection of a system restoration charge from retail customers sufficient to service the bonds, with annual true-ups, dedicated sinking funds, and procedures governing commission review, appeals, and the duration of the financing order.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

SB2657 | Wild Turkey Stamp Fund

Sponsored by Suber, B.; Butler, A.

Creates the Wild Turkey Stamp Fund and directs revenue from wild turkey stamp sales into the fund.

Money in the fund is restricted to the wildlife management and conservation purposes authorized by the act.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB1646 | Local Government Disaster Recovery Loans

Sponsored by Deweese, C.; Hale, J.

Creates a state emergency loan program for local governments recovering from federally declared disasters.

The measure authorizes the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to administer loans through the Local Governments Disaster Recovery Emergency Loan Fund and establishes agency duties, eligibility, and repayment requirements for participating local governments. It also increases transfer limits associated with the Disaster Trust Fund and updates related disaster finance provisions.

SB2898 | Disaster Recovery Fund Transfers

Sponsored by Harkins, J., et al.

Transfers state funds to disaster response and local government recovery programs.

The act directs \$20 million from the Capital Expense Fund to the Disaster Assistance Trust Fund and \$125 million to the 2026 Local Governments Disaster Recovery Emergency Loan Fund.

Emissions & Pollution

SB2415 | Environmental Permit and Brownfields Procedures

Sponsored by Rhodes, B.

Revises Department of Environmental Quality procedures for environmental permits and brownfield cleanup actions.

The measure allows specified hearings involving commercial hazardous waste facilities and commercial municipal solid waste landfills or incinerators to be held in Hinds County, in an affected county or municipality, or through an online public platform at the Permit Board's discretion. It authorizes the department's executive director to issue orders under the Brownfields Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act, removes a certified mail requirement for permit expiration notices, and eliminates the application fee for certain water permits.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB1571 | ARPA Water Infrastructure Funds

Sponsored by Read, J.

Extends availability and closeout requirements for American Rescue Plan Act water infrastructure grants.

The measure extends funding and repeal dates for the ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Program and the Mississippi Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant Program and requires recipients with unfinished projects by the applicable deadline to certify that they will complete the projects with other funds. It also directs the State Fiscal Officer to identify and transfer available or unexpended ARPA balances after September 30, 2026, and authorizes remaining State Fiscal Recovery Fund balances to be assigned to eligible uses so the funds are fully expended by December 31, 2026.

HB1632 | Public Water and Wastewater System Accountability

Sponsored by Powell, B.

Creates statewide accountability systems for community public wastewater and drinking water systems.

The act directs the Department of Environmental Quality and Commission on Environmental Quality to establish wastewater system rules and the State Board of Health to establish drinking water system rules, including letter-grade schedules based on system quality and performance and public publication of scores and grades. It also allows certain utility districts to dissolve when a majority of landowners petition for dissolution.

HB1677 | Metro Jackson Water Authority

Sponsored by Yates, S.; Mansell, C.

Creates the Metro Jackson Water Authority to oversee water and wastewater services in the Jackson area.

The act establishes the authority's governing structure and powers and authorizes it to negotiate the lease, acquisition, or transfer of the City of Jackson's water and sewer system. The authority may set utility rates and charges, issue debt, enter contracts, acquire property, and finance, operate, maintain, and improve water and wastewater infrastructure.

SB2408 | Yazoo River Levee System

Sponsored by Hopson, B.; Brumfield, G.; Butler, A.; Thomas, J.

Authorizes the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission to construct and maintain a levee system along the Yazoo River in Yazoo County.

The commission may undertake related activities necessary for the levee project as provided by the act.

SB2526 | Rural Water Oversight and Planning

Sponsored by Williams, B.

Establishes statewide oversight, financial planning, and capacity requirements for rural water providers.

The act creates the Rural Water Oversight Committee and requires covered providers to obtain rate and capacity studies by December 1, 2027, and at least every five years thereafter, maintain asset management plans, adjust rates in accordance with the studies, and reserve a portion of revenues for system repair and replacement. It also establishes reporting and fiscal distress procedures, conditions certain state assistance on corrective planning, and requires additional action as systems approach capacity limits.

SB3410 | Data Center Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Sponsored by Harkins, J.

Authorizes the City of Brandon and the West Rankin Utility Authority to enter long-term infrastructure agreements with data center developers and operators.

The agreements may cover planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of water and wastewater improvements funded through developer reimbursement, delivery of reclaimed water for cooling or other operations, and wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal. Contracts may run for up to 30 years with renewal options and may establish capacity guarantees, assignment terms, rates, and charges.

MISSOURI

In Brief: **SB1553** creates substantial tax credits and grants for critical-materials manufacturing, directly targeting energy, defense, and supply-chain security. Board alternate Sen. Jason Bean sponsored **SB953**, which revises water permitting, Clean Water Commission governance and return-flow rights, and **SB1033**, which changes air-quality funding while expanding farm-vehicle and cotton-gin exemptions. The combination makes minerals and environmental permitting the state's key themes. **SB913** also extends wood energy, ethanol, and biodiesel tax incentives through 2033, adding a bioenergy and alternative-fuels dimension to the session. Missouri's measures largely focus on domestic industrial capacity, regulatory efficiency and continued support for established energy and agricultural sectors.

Energy Legislation

Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements

SB1553 | Critical Materials Manufacturing Incentives

Sponsored by Gregory, K.

Creates tax and grant incentives for production of critical materials as defined by the United States Department of the Interior that serve an essential function in key energy, defense, and consumer product technologies and have a high risk of supply chain disruption in Missouri.

Beginning with tax years on or after January 1, 2027, the Missouri Defense and Energy Independence Act authorizes tax credits equal to 20 percent of qualified project costs for projects of at least \$5 million but less than \$15 million and 25 percent for projects of at least \$15 million. Eligible costs include construction, expansion, conversion, and equipment for critical material production, subject to an annual credit cap of \$40 million, project agreements, and clawback requirements.

The measure also includes critical materials within the manufacturing sales tax exemption and creates a grant fund for qualifying projects, with individual grants capped at \$500,000. The incentive program sunsets December 31, 2036, unless reauthorized.

Renewable Energy

SB913 | Wood Energy and Biofuel Tax Credits

Sponsored by Gregory, K.

Extends several energy-related tax incentives through 2033.

The act extends the sunset for the wood-energy processed wood products production tax credit from June 30, 2028, to June 30, 2033, and extends the higher-ethanol-blend fuel, biodiesel retail sale, and biodiesel production tax credits from December 31, 2028, to December 31, 2033. It also provides limited penalty and interest relief when an otherwise qualified biodiesel retail sale credit is denied because available credit funding is exhausted and the resulting balance is paid within 60 days.

Utilities

HB2474 | Progressive Design-Build for Utility and Public Works Projects

Sponsored by Voss, J.

Authorizes political subdivisions to use progressive design-build contracting for specified public works.

Eligible civil works include utilities, storm drainage and flood control projects, roads, bridges, airport facilities, and transit projects. The act establishes a two-step selection process based first on design-builder qualifications and then on proposals for design development, preconstruction services, and construction, and the progressive design-build provisions expire August 28, 2036.

Environmental Legislation

Emissions & Pollution

SB1033 | Air Quality Program and Farm Vehicle Exemptions

Sponsored by Bean, J.

Modifies state air quality funding and regulatory requirements.

The act changes the treatment of excess Natural Resources Protection Fund balances and establishes annual transfers based on sales and use tax revenue from electric power distribution. It exempts certain farm vehicles more than 10 years old from motor vehicle emissions inspections and exempts qualifying cotton gins from air dispersion modeling otherwise required for a construction permit.

Inland Water Quality & Management

SB953 | Environmental and Water Program Revisions

Sponsored by Bean, J.

Modifies Department of Natural Resources programs involving water systems, environmental funds, and water permitting.

The act makes technical changes to the hydrant inspection program, revises the treatment of excess Natural Resources Protection Fund balances beginning July 1, 2027, and establishes annual transfers based on state sales and use tax revenue from electric power distribution while repealing specified transfers from the Missouri Air Emission Reduction Fund. It also revises Clean Water Commission membership and conflict-of-interest requirements.

The measure exempts agricultural nonpoint sources, stormwater discharges, and specified irrigation return flows from certain Clean Water Law permitting provisions and grants persons holding U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoir storage rights exclusive rights to associated return flows, subject to state regulation and available storage capacity.

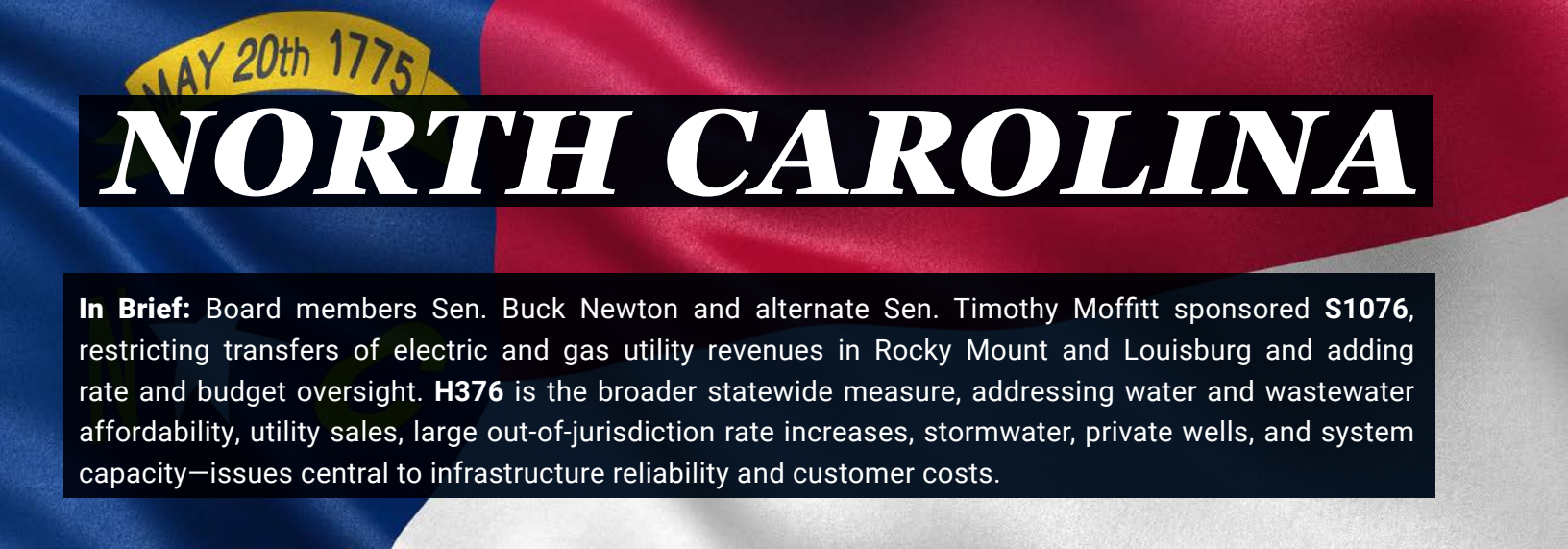
Land Management

SB959 | Missouri Geospatial Advisory Council

Sponsored by Roberts, S.

Creates the Missouri GIS Advisory Council within the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Administration.

The council advises the state on the availability, implementation, and improvement of statewide geospatial data infrastructure shared across jurisdictions. Appointed members serve two-year terms, and the council is prohibited from collecting personally identifiable information.



NORTH CAROLINA

In Brief: Board members Sen. Buck Newton and alternate Sen. Timothy Moffitt sponsored **S1076**, restricting transfers of electric and gas utility revenues in Rocky Mount and Louisburg and adding rate and budget oversight. **H376** is the broader statewide measure, addressing water and wastewater affordability, utility sales, large out-of-jurisdiction rate increases, stormwater, private wells, and system capacity—issues central to infrastructure reliability and customer costs.

Energy Legislation

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

S445 | Environmental Management of Certain Hydrocarbons and Civil Liability for Water Disruption

Sponsored by Jarvis, S., et al.

Makes various regulatory changes affecting environmental management, petroleum storage, water utilities, and liquefied petroleum gas.

The measure requires the Environmental Management Commission to determine the risk level and required cleanup measures for discharges from noncommercial underground storage tanks within five years after receiving required information. For low-risk discharges, the commission generally may not require further cleanup or a notice of residual petroleum if it fails to act within that period, unless it later documents an unacceptable or potentially unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

The legislation also increases civil liability for unlawful connections or interference with water distribution systems to the greater of three times the supplier's losses or \$10,000, plus attorneys' fees.

Further, the act allows registered liquefied petroleum gas dealers to provide limited emergency refills during qualifying emergencies when a customer has less than 20 percent remaining, the regular supplier cannot provide service within three business days, and specified notice, documentation, inspection, and refill limit requirements are satisfied.

Utilities

S257 | 2026 Appropriations Act

Sponsored by Jackson, W.; Hise, R.; Lee, M.; Sanderson, N.

Repeals the sales tax exemption for electricity purchased by qualifying data centers.

S1076 | Rocky Mount and Louisburg Utility Revenues

Sponsored by Barnes, L.; Newton, B.; Moffitt, T.; Sanderson, N.

Limits Rocky Mount's transfer of electric and natural gas system revenues to other municipal funds through January 1, 2029, while allowing specified utility costs and reimbursements, and creates a Public Utilities Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations on utility rates, budgets, capital projects, policies, and revenue transfers.

It also prohibits Louisburg from transferring electric system revenues to other municipal funds or using electric rate revenue for economic development projects.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

H747 | Wildlife Resource Information and Elk Conservation

Sponsored by Adams, J., et al.

Revises wildlife resource confidentiality, conservation funding, and recreational boating requirements.

The act allows the Wildlife Resources Commission to withhold site-specific records concerning rare species or sensitive habitats when disclosure could create a risk of harm, theft, or destruction, while preserving access for affected landowners. It also establishes an elk permit raffle and auction beginning with the 2027 hunting season, with net proceeds dedicated to elk conservation and management and periodic reporting on the program.

The measure additionally updates boating safety law by reducing the out-of-state vessel registration reciprocity period from 90 to 60 days, applying federal Inland Navigation Rules to all vessels on state waters, and broadening engine cut-off switch requirements for personal watercraft.

Inland Water Quality & Management

H376 | Water and Wastewater Affordability and Capacity

Sponsored by Brody, M.; Zenger, J.; Riddell, D.

Revises water and wastewater utility, capacity, stormwater, and on-site system requirements.

The act requires public hearings and public interest findings before a local government sells a public water or sewer system to a private company and before specified out-of-jurisdiction rate increases exceeding 25 percent. It also adjusts Utilities Commission review of water and sewer investment plan rates and directs the Environmental Management Commission to study commercial and industrial wastewater design flow rates by January 1, 2027.

The measure clarifies limits and incentives for stormwater controls on redevelopment, revises certification and inspection procedures for on-site wastewater systems, authorizes licensed engineers to perform specified inspections, replaces local private-well programs with implementation of the state program, and updates approval procedures for advanced pretreatment wastewater systems.

S401 | Agricultural Water, Waste, and Energy Provisions

Sponsored by Jackson, W., et al.

Modifies agricultural laws affecting water management, waste, conservation, and propane regulation.

The act directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to update the Strategic Plan for Protecting Agricultural Water Resources by January 1, 2027, addressing infrastructure needs, conservation practices, water storage assistance, and flood mitigation. It also expands animal waste fertilizer conversion cost-share eligibility, modifies permitting treatment for certain livestock mortality composting, studies shellfish aquaculture leasing, and extends the conservation tax credit through 2030.

The measure expands liquefied petroleum gas inspection and enforcement authority, increases the propane assessment from \$0.002 to \$0.003 per gallon beginning January 1, 2027, and permits assessment revenue to support workforce development. Buildings used solely to produce agricultural products from animal waste, including fertilizer and biogas, are treated as bona fide farm uses exempt from county zoning and, subject to specified conditions, the State Building Code.

OKLAHOMA

In Brief: Board member Rep. Brad Boles helped sponsor several of Oklahoma's most consequential measures. **HB2992** creates special rate and service protections for data centers, crypto mining, and AI facilities of at least 75 MW. **SB259** limits consumptive groundwater cooling at data centers and strengthens water-use reporting. **HB3464** establishes statewide safety, emergency-response and decommissioning rules for energy storage and solar projects. **HR1041** supports Oklahoma's bid for a federal Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus, while **HB4338** expands the state's framework for recovering useful constituents from produced water. The session closely links high-load computing, water availability, energy storage, nuclear development, and oil-and-gas resource innovation.

Energy Legislation

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

SB893 | Critical Infrastructure Protection from Foreign Adversaries

Sponsored by Howard, B., et al.

Restricts foreign adversary access to critical infrastructure and nearby property.

The act prohibits specified foreign principals from owning, renting, or controlling real property within 10 miles of critical infrastructure or military facilities and requires divestment of covered interests. It also restricts foreign adversary access to critical infrastructure, government contracting for infrastructure-related goods and services, and use of certain foreign adversary software in state infrastructure.

SB1441 | Drone Operations Near Critical Infrastructure

Sponsored by Hines, K.; West, J.

Establishes criminal penalties for prohibited unmanned aircraft operations around critical infrastructure facilities.

The measure applies criminal penalties to unauthorized drone operations that violate state restrictions intended to prevent low-altitude flight over, physical contact with, or interference with covered critical infrastructure.

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

HB1370 | Oil and Gas Excise Tax Plugging Fund

Sponsored by Boles, B., et al.

Revises oil and natural gas excise tax allocations supporting the Corporation Commission's well plugging program.

The act extends the Corporation Commission Plugging Fund provisions through July 1, 2031, modifies applicable petroleum oil and natural gas excise tax apportionment and termination dates, and caps transfers to the fund at \$10 million from natural gas collections and \$10 million from petroleum oil collections.

HB1371 | Unpaid Oil and Gas Proceeds

Sponsored by Moore, A., et al.

Creates an escrow process for certain unpaid oil and gas proceeds owed to mineral owners.

The measure permits qualifying unpaid proceeds and accrued interest to be remitted to an interest-bearing Mineral Owner's Fund escrow account administered by the State Treasurer after specified periods and owner contact efforts. Owners may later claim the funds by establishing entitlement, and remittance relieves the payor of further liability for the amount transferred.

The act also modifies when interest stops accruing on returned or uncashed checks and unsuccessful electronic transfers when the payor has exercised the required diligence and maintained supporting records.

HB1427 | Clean-Burning Vehicle Fuel Tax Credits

Sponsored by Wilk, J.; Paxton, L.; Boles, B.

Expands the taxes against which qualifying clean burning motor vehicle fuel property credits may be claimed.

The credit applies to qualifying equipment and vehicles using fuels or technologies that include compressed natural gas, hydrogen fuel cells, liquefied natural gas, and liquefied petroleum gas, and the act extends use of the credit to specified insurance tax obligations.

HB3986 | Recycled Water Well Tax Exemption

Sponsored by Caldwell, T.; Thompson, K.

Removes the date restriction on the 24-month gross production tax exemption available to qualifying oil and gas wells completed using recycled water.

HB4338 | Brine and Produced Water Development

Sponsored by Moore, A.; Green, G.; Newton, C.; Bashore, S.

Expands Oklahoma's brine development framework to produced water and solution gas.

The act gives the Corporation Commission authority over brine and produced water units used to recover constituent elements or solution gas and establishes definitions and unitization procedures for produced water from oil and gas wells. The commission may create a produced water unit after making specified findings regarding feasibility, waste prevention, recovery, and correlative rights, and the act allows certain produced water that would otherwise be disposed of to be processed before a unit order is entered.

SB227 | Oil and Gas Production Property Tax Exemptions

Sponsored by Daniels, J., et al.

Expands the oil and gas production property exempt from ad valorem taxation.

The act adds specified lease tanks and meters, flow and gathering lines, disposal systems and related waste lines, and certain nonrecoverable wellbore and downhole materials used in disposal wells to the exemption while the property remains essential to commercial oil and gas production. The changes apply beginning January 1, 2027.

SB1191 | Low Carbon Energy Initiative Board Repeal

Sponsored by Daniels, J.; Bashore, S.

Repeals the Oklahoma Low Carbon Energy Initiative Board.

SB1280 | Oil and Gas Excise Tax Extension

Sponsored by Bergstrom, M.; Kendrix, G.

Extends Oklahoma's additional excise tax on oil and gas and related revenue apportionments through June 30, 2031.

SB1390 | Gross Production Tax Revenue Apportionment

Sponsored by Jech, D.; Newton, C.

Revises the distribution of oil and natural gas gross production tax collections.

The measure adjusts statutory apportionment formulas and limits governing how production tax revenue is allocated among the General Revenue Fund, county highway funds, school districts, and other dedicated state funds.

SB1439 | Fossil Fuel Climate Liability Actions

Sponsored by Daniels, J., et al.

Bars specified climate- and greenhouse-gas-related civil liability actions involving fossil fuel producers and other covered entities.

The act applies to claims arising from climate change, its alleged effects, or greenhouse gas emissions involving fossil fuel production, processing, transport, storage, sale, or use for electricity generation. It does not bar actions enforcing federal or state environmental requirements governing emissions, discharges, or storage, or worker protection laws.

SB1613 | Liquefied Petroleum Gas Administration

Sponsored by Green, G.; Cornwell, R.

Revises state oversight and incident reporting requirements for liquefied petroleum gas.

The act authorizes investigations of specified LPG accidents or fires, requires notification to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Administration within one business day, and updates the structure and meeting requirements of the State Liquefied Petroleum Gas Administrator and Oklahoma Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board.

SB1976 | Oil and Gas Operator Surety Elections

Sponsored by Green, G.; Boles, B.

Allows eligible oil and gas operators to voluntarily convert from Category A to Category B financial surety.

The act permits an operator in good standing with valid Category A surety to elect Category B surety by written notice to the Corporation Commission and to revert to Category A within three years without penalty or additional qualifications. After the three-year period, the operator remains subject to Category B requirements, including applicable phased surety amounts.

Nuclear Energy

HR1041 | Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus

Sponsored by Archer, N.; West, J.

Supports federal designation of a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus in Oklahoma.

The resolution endorses the Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment's application to the U.S. Department of Energy for the designation and cites the state's energy infrastructure, workforce, and

research capacity as supporting development of advanced nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors and microreactors.

Renewable Energy

HB3464 | Energy Storage Safety and Solar Development

Sponsored by Boles, B., et al.

Establishes statewide safety, emergency response, and decommissioning requirements for energy storage resources and solar facilities.

The Energy Storage Resource Safety Act requires covered storage projects to comply with applicable fire code and NFPA 855 standards, complete required engineering review, correct identified noncompliance before operation, maintain site-specific emergency operations plans, coordinate with local responders, and provide responder training. New storage agreements must address decommissioning, removal, restoration, and financial assurance, and the State Fire Marshal is authorized to conduct reviews and collect fees.

The Solar Energy Development Act establishes landowner payment statements and record access requirements, project reporting to the Corporation Commission, liability insurance, construction and public notice procedures, fire safety site planning, and decommissioning and financial assurance requirements for solar developments.

Utilities

HB2992 | Large-Load Data Center Electric Rates

Sponsored by Boles, B., et al.

Creates rate and service requirements for large-load data centers and similar high-demand facilities.

The Data Center Customer Ratepayer Protection Act applies to new data centers, cryptocurrency mining operations, and artificial intelligence computing facilities meeting the act's 75-megawatt threshold. Electric suppliers must use separate rates or service terms designed to assign costs to the large-load customer and protect existing residential, commercial, and industrial customers from unjust cost shifts, with specified credit and long-term service requirements.

The measure also imposes notice requirements for certain land acquisitions by large-load customers outside municipalities or industrial parks and authorizes civil penalties for noncompliance.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

SB1246 | Environmental Permitting Procedures

Sponsored by Rader, D.; Pfeiffer, J.; Boles, B.

Revises public notice, review, and hearing procedures for Tier II and Tier III environmental permits.

The measure expands use of the Department of Environmental Quality's electronic permit docket and electronic notifications and shortens several permitting timelines, including deadlines for formal public meetings, responses to comments, and administrative prehearing conferences.

SB1405 | Wildlife Diversity Fund Tax Checkoff

Sponsored by Hicks, C.; George, J.

Reauthorizes the state income tax refund donation checkoff for the Wildlife Diversity Fund.

SB2095 | Waterfowl and Crane Hunting Guides

Sponsored by Kern, S.; Townley, T.

Requires hunting outfitter or guide licenses for compensated waterfowl and crane hunting services.

The act establishes eligibility, insurance, and licensing requirements for outfitters and guides and sets maximum annual license fees. It exempts specified landowners, agricultural lessees, and licensed hunting properties and establishes misdemeanor penalties and license revocation for violations.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB1675 | Camp and Recreation Severe Weather Preparedness

Sponsored by Cantrell, J., et al.

Establishes emergency planning and warning requirements for camps and recreational campgrounds.

Covered camps must conduct site-specific hazard assessments, maintain emergency action plans addressing severe weather and other hazards, use multiple warning methods including a non-cellular method, conduct training and drills, and file required plans with local emergency management officials. Recreational campgrounds must maintain and annually file emergency action plans for natural disasters and severe weather events.

HB3831 | Oklahoma Task Force 1

Sponsored by May, S., et al.

Recognizes Oklahoma Task Force 1 as the state's official deployment asset for urban search and rescue and specified disaster responses.

The act designates the task force for deployments, including Emergency Management Assistance Compact missions, and creates the Oklahoma Task Force 1 Revolving Fund to support deployment costs, personnel, equipment, logistics, training, and related operations of the Oklahoma City and Tulsa components.

Emissions & Pollution

SB1319 | Oil and Brine Residential Remediation Assistance

Sponsored by Frix, A.; Sneed, C.; Bashore, S.; Boles, B.

Creates a reimbursement process for local governments addressing residences contaminated by oil or brine.

The measure allows cities and counties to seek reimbursement after acquiring and removing affected residential property, authorizes the Corporation Commission to use plugging funds to remediate contamination linked to a well, and requires net proceeds from sale of remediated property to return to the program. It creates the Remediation Assistance Revolving Fund and provides for Department of Environmental Quality involvement when contamination falls outside the Commission's jurisdiction.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB2988 | Statewide Harmful Woody Species Removal

Sponsored by Dobrinski, M.; Kern, S.; Ranson, T.

Expands a watershed restoration pilot into a statewide program for controlling harmful woody species.

The Terry Peach Water Restoration Act authorizes coordinated treatment projects using prescribed burning, biological, mechanical, or herbicide methods to improve water flow, reduce wildfire risk, protect wildlife habitat, and support grazing lands. The program may provide cost-share assistance and grants to

conservation districts, fire departments, and prescribed burn associations and must maintain project areas on both sides of Canton Lake Dam.

HB4075 | Strategic Water Infrastructure Funding

Sponsored by Caldwell, T.; Hall, C.; Kane, J.; Haste, J.

Provides Statewide Recovery Fund money for water infrastructure projects administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

The act appropriates \$25,998,798 for completion of previously authorized projects or other statewide strategic water infrastructure consistent with legislative recommendations and allows the board to reallocate funds among specified projects as needed for completion. It also establishes recovery fund accounting, transfer, oversight, and quarterly reporting requirements for the remaining federal recovery period.

HB4316 | Rural Water District Organization

Sponsored by Kendrix, G.; Howard, B.; Luttrell, K.; Timmons, A.

Removes an existing date limitation on when nonprofit rural water corporations may organize as rural water districts.

The measure also clarifies that the provision does not authorize the organization or reorganization of a solid waste management district.

SB259 | Groundwater Reporting and Data Center Cooling

Sponsored by Howard, B.; Newton, C.; Boles, B.; Burns, G.

Strengthens groundwater reporting and enforcement requirements and limits consumptive groundwater cooling at data centers.

The act directs the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to audit permit use reports, modernize its electronic reporting system, investigate alleged waste, and impose penalties for overuse or waste. It also prohibits data centers from using groundwater in open-air evaporative or other nonrecirculating cooling systems and limits permits to closed-loop, immersion, or comparably low-consumptive technologies.

SB1175 | Oklahoma Water Resources Board Funding

Sponsored by Hall, C., et al.

Provides fiscal year 2027 funding for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

The measure directs portions of the appropriation to specified water resource purposes and programs. Specifically, it appropriates \$925,000 to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to carry out the provisions of SB259. The measure also directs the OWRB to deposit \$10,000,000 of its fiscal year 2027 appropriations to the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Water Projects Fund and allows the board to enter into contracts with financial institutions to hold and disseminate loan funds.

Lastly, the measure directs \$2,000,000 of its 2027 appropriations to be used for a regional water system in northeast Oklahoma.

SB1176 | Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Program

Sponsored by Hall, C., et al.

Creates a revolving loan program for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

The act directs the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to establish competitive loans for eligible entities developing water or wastewater improvements, including projects supporting workforce housing and

commercial site readiness. It creates a revolving fund for the program, requires loan clawback provisions, and allows fund use for program reserves, system evaluation, risk assessment, and long-range planning.

SB1314 | Well Driller Remediation Fund

Sponsored by Jech, D.; Newton, C.

Increases funding limits for remediation of substandard or abandoned groundwater wells and boreholes.

The act raises the Well Drillers and Pump Installers Remedial Action Indemnity Fund balance target from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and increases the maximum remedial expenditure per well, borehole, or pump from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Once the fund reaches its target balance, specified fees and penalties are directed to a regulatory account for licensing, inspections, enforcement, and related administration.

SB1509 | Groundwater Well Spacing

Sponsored by Jech, D.; Newton, C.; Burns, G.

Revises the Oklahoma Water Resources Board's authority to establish groundwater well spacing.

The act allows the Board to adopt basin-specific well spacing as part of a maximum annual yield determination and removes the requirement for a separate public hearing in or near each major basin or subbasin before adopting spacing rules.

Reorganization & Coordination

HB3005 | Oklahoma Climatological Survey Continuation

Sponsored by Kendrix, G.; Bergstrom, M.

Recreates the Oklahoma Climatological Survey and extends its statutory sunset to July 1, 2031.

Solid Waste

HB3472 | Tire Pyrolysis and Used Tire Processing

Sponsored by Kerbs, D.; Stanley, B.

Temporarily classifies tire pyrolysis as used tire processing under the Oklahoma Used Tire Recycling Act.

Through July 1, 2031, tire pyrolysis qualifies as used tire processing, and pyrolysis facilities are treated as used tire recycling facilities rather than advanced recycling facilities and are subject to the statutes and rules applicable to used tire recycling facilities.

PUERTO RICO

In Brief: HR88 orders a territory-wide investigation into recurring power outages and voltage fluctuations, directly addressing Puerto Rico's continuing reliability concerns. SR499 studies nuclear energy and small modular reactors, while S82 adds green hydrogen to the renewable-energy framework. S213 extends recycling law to solar panels, battery storage, and EV equipment, tackling the growing end-of-life challenge for clean-energy technologies. HJR193 also targets distributed-energy barriers by directing relief from specified net-metering interconnection fees. Multiple resolutions examine drinking water service and infrastructure failures, underscoring that electric reliability, water system reliability and the management of newer clean energy technologies remain closely connected policy priorities.

Energy Legislation

Nuclear Energy

SR499 | Nuclear Energy and Small Modular Reactor Study

Sponsored by Reyes Berrios

Directs the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, the Public-Private Partnerships Authority, the Puerto Rico Energy Bureau, and other relevant entities to evaluate current nuclear energy technology.

The study must examine implementation costs, territorial and technical feasibility, and the potential number and use of small modular reactors in Puerto Rico.

Renewable Energy

S82 | Green Hydrogen as Alternative Renewable Energy

Sponsored by Rivera Schatz

Amends Puerto Rico's energy diversification law to classify hydrogen produced without fossil fuels, commonly known as green hydrogen, as an alternative renewable energy source.

The act aligns the statutory definition with federal clean energy planning and makes qualifying green hydrogen technologies eligible under the territory's renewable energy framework.

Utilities

HR77 | Electric Service Interruptions in District 21

Sponsored by Martinez

Adopts a resolution directing a legislative investigation into recurring electric service interruptions in Representative District 21.

The review must examine the causes and consequences of the outages and their effects on residents' quality of life, housing, and economic development.

HR88 | Power Outages and Voltage Fluctuations

Sponsored by Santiago Guzman

Adopts a resolution directing a comprehensive investigation into electric power outages and voltage fluctuations across Puerto Rico.

The inquiry must evaluate their causes and the effects of unreliable service on residential and commercial customers.

HJR193 | Net-Metering Interconnection Fee Relief

Sponsored by Pares Otero

Directs the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority and the grid operator to stop collecting supplementary-study and grid improvement fees imposed under Regulation No. 8915 on net-metered generation systems of up to 25 kilowatts.

The measure also calls for updated interconnection standards consistent with Puerto Rico's energy public policy.

SR331 | Unused Net-Metering Credit Review

Sponsored by Hernandez Ortiz

Adopts a resolution directing an investigation into how accumulated, unused net-metering credits are calculated, managed, and distributed.

The review includes transfers benefiting the Department of Education and LUMA Energy's internal procedures for handling excess kilowatt-hour credits associated with customer accounts.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

HR239 | Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Investigation

Sponsored by Aponte Hernandez

Requests a legislative investigation into illegal wildlife trafficking in Puerto Rico.

The inquiry must examine the scope of the activity and the enforcement and policy measures available to protect native and regulated species.

HR365 | Public School Drinking Water Fountain Conditions

Sponsored by Perez Ramirez

Adopts a resolution directing an investigation into the location, operation, maintenance, and condition of drinking water fountains in public schools.

Equitable access to safe drinking water during periods of extreme heat must also be considered during the review.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HR29 | Wastewater and Compost Plant Operations Investigation

Sponsored by Nieves Rosario

Directs an investigation into operations, management, and treatment processes at the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority's sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment plant and at the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources' compost plant.

SR154 | Water and Wastewater Facility Condition Study

Sponsored by Sanchez Alvarez

Requests a study of the condition of pumping systems and drinking water and wastewater treatment plants operated by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority.

The review is intended to identify infrastructure and operational needs affecting reliable water and sewer service.

SR189 | Drinking Water Service Reliability Investigation

Sponsored by Colon La Santa

Adopts a resolution directing an investigation into the quality, continuity, and reliability of drinking water service provided by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority.

HR247 | Western Region Drinking Water Projects Study

Sponsored by Roman Lopez

Enacts a resolution directing a study of drinking water access projects under development in Puerto Rico's western region.

Project progress and opportunities to strengthen reliable access to essential water service must be assessed during the review.

SR289 | San Juan Drinking Water Interruptions Investigation

Sponsored by Morales Rodriguez

Directs an investigation into recurring drinking water service interruptions affecting multiple communities in San Juan.

The inquiry must examine the causes of the disruptions and the response of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority.

HR315 | District 18 Drinking Water Infrastructure and Service

Sponsored by Gonzalez Gonzalez

Requests an investigation into water infrastructure, maintenance, drinking water access, and service quality in Aguada, Anasco, Rincon, and Moca, which comprise Representative District 18.

Conditions and services provided by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority are the subject of the review.

HR317 | Arecibo and Hatillo Drinking Water Interruptions

Sponsored by Robles

Directs an investigation into persistent and intermittent drinking water service in Arecibo and Hatillo, the municipalities comprising Representative District 14.

The inquiry will seek the causes of the disruptions and evaluate the Aqueduct and Sewer Authority's response.

HR356 | Drinking Water Distribution Crisis Investigation

Sponsored by Marquez Lebron

Adopts a resolution directing a comprehensive investigation into Puerto Rico's drinking water distribution crisis.

Infrastructure, operational, and service conditions contributing to unreliable water delivery must be reviewed during the investigation.

HR416 | Islote Sewage Overflow Investigation

Sponsored by Nieves Rosario

Enacts a resolution directing an investigation into persistent sewage overflows in the Islote neighborhood.

The inquiry must evaluate the causes, public health and environmental effects, and corrective actions needed to address the problem.

HR471 | District 13 Drinking Water Service Disruptions

Sponsored by Nieves Rosario

Directs an investigation into the causes of drinking water service disruptions in the communities of Representative District 13.

The inquiry focuses on service provided by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority and measures needed to improve reliability.

Reorganization & Coordination

S459 | Aqueduct and Sewer Authority Governance

Sponsored by Rivera Schatz

Revises the composition and governance of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority's governing board.

The law changes how municipal representatives are designated, clarifies political activity and conflict-of-interest restrictions for officials, and makes technical amendments intended to strengthen institutional governance and accountability.

Solid Waste

HR17 | Solid Waste Management System Investigation

Sponsored by DelValle Correa

Adopts a resolution directing a comprehensive investigation into Puerto Rico's solid waste management system.

The inquiry must assess current conditions and identify issues affecting collection, disposal, recycling, and the development of waste management markets.

H19 | Used Tire Safety Standards

Sponsored by Mendez Nunez

Establishes minimum safety standards for used tires sold or installed in Puerto Rico.

The law prohibits tires with specified tread, structural, repair, identification, recall, or age defects; requires implementing rules and coordination among transportation, environmental, and consumer agencies; incorporates the standards into vehicle inspections; and authorizes administrative penalties for violations.

S213 | Solar, Battery, and Electric Vehicle Equipment Recycling

Sponsored by Moran

Expands Puerto Rico's electronic equipment recycling and disposal law to cover renewable energy and energy storage equipment.

Covered equipment includes photovoltaic systems, battery storage systems, lithium-ion electric vehicle batteries and chargers, and comparable components, bringing end-of-life solar and transportation technologies into the territory's recycling and disposal framework.

S219 | Recycling Industry Financing

Sponsored by Moran

Revises Puerto Rico's solid waste reduction and recycling law to expand financing for recycling infrastructure.

The measure authorizes the Economic Development Bank to support private recycling entities and community enterprises purchasing collection, storage, processing, or transportation equipment or constructing recycling facilities, with the goal of creating a durable financing source for the sector.

HR292 | Tire Recycling Alternatives Study

Sponsored by Aponte Hernandez

Adopts a resolution directing an investigation into tire recycling in Puerto Rico.

The review must evaluate alternatives for increasing recovery and beneficial use of discarded tires and promoting the territory's tire recycling industry.

H806 | Child Safety Seat Reuse and Recycling

Sponsored by Hernandez Concepcion

Amends Puerto Rico's child safety seat collection, reuse, and recycling program.

The Fire Bureau and Traffic Safety Commission may accept and reuse donated child safety or booster seats without an accompanying instruction manual when the seats remain within their useful life, retain required labels and components, and are certified as meeting federal safety standards; unusable seats must be recycled.

SOUTH CAROLINA

In Brief: Board alternate Rep. Gil Gatch sponsored **H4986 & S0834**, recognizing natural gas as critical to meeting South Carolina's growing energy demand. **S0163** requires digital-asset miners to demonstrate they can reduce electricity use during grid stress, tying high-load computing directly to reliability. **H3967** classifies qualifying biomass energy as renewable and carbon neutral—and carbon negative when paired with permanent carbon capture and storage. **S0556** adds a tax credit for renewable natural gas production equipment, further broadening the state's treatment of bioenergy. **H5111**, meanwhile, limits unreasonable restrictions on private wells and mandatory public-water connections, highlighting parallel concerns about growth, infrastructure availability, and local resource access.

Energy Legislation

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

H4986 & S0834 | Role of Natural Gas in South Carolina

Sponsored by Gatch, G., et al.; Gambrell, M.

Recognizes the critical role of natural gas in meeting South Carolina's growing energy needs and supporting the state's future.

S0556 | Renewable Natural Gas Tax Credit

Sponsored by Verdin, D.

Creates a state tax credit for commercial renewable natural gas production equipment.

For taxable years beginning after 2025 and before 2030, the act allows a credit equal to 25 percent of qualifying costs for equipment that collects, processes, and transports landfill gas into renewable natural gas containing at least 90 percent methane. The nonrefundable credit is subject to annual limits, may be transferred or carried forward for 15 years, and must benefit ratepayers when claimed by a regulated utility.

Renewable Energy

H3967 | Biomass and Bioenergy Classification

Sponsored by Haddon, P., et al.

Defines qualifying biomass sources and establishes state classifications for bioenergy produced from biomass and agricultural harvesting.

The act treats qualifying bioenergy as renewable and carbon neutral and classifies that energy as carbon negative when paired with carbon capture and permanent storage. Biomass includes specified forest products manufacturing residuals, harvest residues, certain waste and wood materials, and materials generated through forest management activities.

Utilities

S0163 | Digital Asset Mining and Grid Reliability

Sponsored by Verdin, D.; Leber, M.

Establishes electric grid requirements for digital asset mining businesses.

The act requires a digital asset mining business to operate without placing additional stress on the connected electrical grid and, upon request, provide its power purchase agreement to the Public Service Commission showing an ability to reduce consumption during periods of grid stress.

Environmental Legislation

Coastal Zone Management

H3931 | Coastal Permit Processing

Sponsored by Bailey, W., et al.

Establishes timelines and procedural changes for coastal tideland and wetlands permitting.

The act requires the Department of Environmental Services to act on complete permit applications within 90 days, or 30 days for minor developments, and generally requires requests for additional technical information within 15 days after public notice. It also establishes automatic coastal zone consistency approval deadlines, authorizes independent third-party engineers, and revises maintenance dredging requirements after September 30, 2032.

Emissions & Pollution

H5305 | Organics-First Pest Management

Sponsored by Herbkersman, W., et al.

Encourages local governments and school districts to adopt organics-first integrated pest management practices for public lands.

The resolution promotes prevention-based and least-toxic organic practices and discourages synthetic pesticide use in public land, habitat restoration, and roadside management.

S0893 | Underground Petroleum Cleanup Fund

Sponsored by Verdin, D.; Zell, J.

Expands funding and updates administration of South Carolina's underground petroleum contamination response program.

The act increases the maximum SUPERB Account funding available for site rehabilitation to \$2 million per occurrence, revises underground storage tank renewal fees beginning in 2029, and updates program definitions, compensation provisions, and the composition and duties of the SUPERB Advisory Committee.

Inland Water Quality & Management

H5111 | Private Wells and Public Water Connections

Sponsored by Forrest, C., et al.

Limits local restrictions on private wells and mandatory public water system connections.

The act prohibits political subdivisions from unreasonably restricting private wells on agricultural or single-family residential property and from requiring connection to a public water system when the system cannot provide service.

Land Management

H3872 | Hunting Land Protection

Sponsored by Cox, B.; Bauer, H.; Caskey, M.

Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from making decisions that result in a net loss of department-managed land available for hunting.

H5069 | Protected Lands Conservation Benchmark

Sponsored by Moore, T., et al.

Establishes a statewide long-range benchmark for voluntary land conservation.

The act recognizes natural resource conservation as a state interest, encourages resource agencies to support conservation through existing planning, grant, land management, and voluntary landowner programs, and sets a nonbinding goal of increasing protected land from approximately 3.4 million acres to seven million acres by 2050. The benchmark does not require land acquisition, new private property restrictions, or appropriations.

Reorganization & Coordination

H4189 | Environmental Agency Restructuring Conforming Changes

Sponsored by Davis, S.; Herbkerman, W.

Makes conforming statutory changes following the division of the former Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The act updates environmental statutes and agency references to reflect responsibilities assigned to the Department of Environmental Services under the restructuring enacted by Act 60 of 2023 and repeals obsolete provisions associated with the former department.

TENNESSEE

In Brief: **HB1847** squarely addresses large-load growth by requiring data centers of at least 50 MW to bear the electric infrastructure costs created by their demand. **HB2070** limits state-law climate liability tied to coal, oil and natural gas, making it a major emissions-policy measure. **SB2232** creates a state disaster response and recovery mechanism when federal aid is unavailable or inadequate, including support for water, electric, and communications infrastructure. **HB2560** reorganizes emergency-management functions into a new department-level TEMA structure, while **SB1793** establishes a state office and advisory council focused on recycling markets. The session combines data center cost allocation, traditional energy protections, disaster resilience, and materials management capacity.

Energy Legislation

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

HB1874 | Hybrid Electric Vehicle Definition

Sponsored by Martin, G.; Howell, D.; Todd, C.

Revises the statutory definition of a hybrid electric vehicle to include a motor vehicle propelled by a combination of an electric motor and an internal combustion engine or other power source and associated components.

HB2070 | Tennessee Energy Freedom Act

Sponsored by Todd, C., et al.

Limits state law emissions liability associated with coal, oil, and natural gas activities.

The act generally prohibits injunctive relief or liability for covered emissions arising from the exploration, production, transportation, sale, refining, combustion, or other use of coal, oil, or natural gas unless the activity violates the federal Clean Air Act or another federal environmental law, in which case remedies are determined under federal law. It also creates a process for a person or company to seek a declaratory determination of its covered emissions in Tennessee.

SB1875 | Alternative Motor Fuel Taxation

Sponsored by Johnson, J.

Revises motor fuel tax administration for liquefied gas, compressed natural gas, and hydrogen used in motor vehicles.

The act requires liquefied gas tax to be collected on delivery into a vehicle rather than prepaid annually and makes user permits permanent subject to reporting and payment requirements. It establishes gallon-equivalent factors of 5.66 pounds for compressed natural gas and 2.2 pounds for hydrogen and extends dealer permitting, reporting, recordkeeping, and dispenser inspection requirements to hydrogen fuel.

SB2231 | Oil and Gas Drilling Regulation

Sponsored by Johnson, J.; Reeves, S.

Revises permitting, bonding, enforcement, and reclamation requirements for oil and gas operations.

The act updates definitions of operators, producers, wells, and related entities; requires drilling permit applications to identify streams within 0.25 mile of a well site; authorizes per-well bonding and removes statutory bond caps; and allows the Board of Water Quality, Oil and Gas to contract for plugging or reclamation work. It increases the maximum civil penalty to \$10,000 per day of violation, revises permit and bond forfeiture procedures, and requires well-site access roads to comply with applicable water quality and other laws.

SB2233 | Foreign Ownership of Mineral Rights

Sponsored by Johnson, J., et al.

Expands restrictions on land acquisitions by prohibited foreign parties to mineral interests.

The act applies the restrictions to oil, gas, coal, lignite, brine, and other commercial mineral rights underlying agricultural or nonagricultural land. It also expands the definition of prohibited foreign parties to include specified federally designated foreign adversaries and businesses they control, lowers ownership thresholds used to determine significant interest or substantial control, and requires newly covered parties holding Tennessee land interests to register as provided by law.

Utilities

HB1464 | Electrical Lineman Death Benefits

Sponsored by Powers, D., et al.

Provides a death benefit annuity for the estate of a local government electrical lineman killed in the line of duty.

The Chance Carlton Act provides an annual \$50,000 annuity for five years and requires the Department of Finance and Administration to review a denied claim within 90 days and issue a binding final order. It defines an electrical lineman as a local government employee who installs, maintains, or repairs electrical transmission and power distribution systems.

HB1673 | Utility Consolidation and Governance

Sponsored by Bricken, R.; Russell, L.; Vaughan, K.; Marsh, P.

Revises utility consolidation, governance, and financial oversight requirements.

The act establishes procedures for utility districts to consolidate with other utility districts, municipalities, counties, or utility authorities and prescribes approvals, public hearings, and governance of consolidated systems. It also revises continuing education and compliance requirements for utility governing body members, modifies oversight of financially distressed or ailing systems, and authorizes utility systems to make internal loans under comptroller guidelines.

HB1847 | Data Center Electrical Infrastructure Costs

Sponsored by Butler, E., et al.

Requires large data centers to bear electrical infrastructure costs attributable to their demand.

The act generally prohibits municipalities and electric utilities from paying or absorbing costs of transmission, distribution, substation, transformer, metering, and related infrastructure that would not

be incurred but for a newly constructed or expanded data center projected to reach at least 50 megawatts of peak demand. The requirements apply to covered conduct and agreements beginning January 1, 2027.

HB1875 | Residential Electric Vehicle Charging

Sponsored by Martin, G.; Crawford, J.; Vital, G.

Limits condominium and homeowners' association restrictions on personal electric vehicle charging.

The act prohibits associations from barring a lot owner from installing a charging station for personal use on property owned by the lot owner and makes related changes governing residential electric vehicle charging installations. The requirements apply to covered actions and declarations beginning July 1, 2026.

HB2386 | Public Infrastructure Cost Sharing

Sponsored by Vaughan, K.

Authorizes political subdivisions to enter cost-sharing arrangements with developers for offsite public infrastructure needed for development projects.

The act allows a political subdivision to require a developer to construct or pay for qualifying infrastructure improvements when costs are shared in proportion to the development's use or impact. The political subdivision must make the infrastructure determination within 60 days of the developer's approval request.

HB2643 | Winchester Board of Public Utilities

Sponsored by Rudder, I.

Expands the jurisdiction and revises the governance of the Winchester Board of Public Utilities, subject to local approval.

The act extends the board's authority to wastewater treatment systems, makes the mayor a standing board member during the mayor's term, establishes four-year terms for other members, and makes related changes to board administration.

SB0717 | Natural Gas Utility Change of Control

Sponsored by Taylor, B.

Requires Tennessee Public Utility Commission approval before regulated natural gas utility assets or control may be transferred.

The act gives the commission exclusive authority over acquisitions, changes in control, and assignment of franchise rights and requires a finding that the transaction is in the public interest.

SB0855 | Sewer Service Outside Municipal Boundaries

Sponsored by Taylor, B.

Creates a process for municipalities with long-term sewer connection moratoriums outside their corporate boundaries to extend or permit sewer service within defined adjacency areas.

The act applies when a municipality has maintained such a moratorium for at least five consecutive years and allows service or connection when the affected property owner or developer agrees to pay, or the municipality assesses, a housing surcharge.

SB2102 | Municipal Electric Utility Board Representation

Sponsored by Taylor, B.; Gardenhire, T.; Bowling, J.

Requires municipal electric utility boards to provide representation for customers served outside the utility's home municipality.

The act adds voting board members representing qualifying outside counties and unincorporated areas when specified customer thresholds are met and establishes appointment, residency, customer-status, and term requirements for the added members.

SB2205 | Subterranean Transportation Utility Coordination

Sponsored by Johnson, J., et al.

Establishes utility coordination requirements for subterranean transportation infrastructure projects.

The act requires utilities to cooperate on service, relocation, protection, and identification of subsurface facilities and generally assigns the project operator responsibility for actual utility relocation, adjustment, protection, or reconstruction costs unless otherwise agreed. It requires written utility decisions on certain project requests, establishes an appeal process, and authorizes coordination agreements with state utility and environmental regulators.

SJR0664 | Winter Storm Fern Utility Worker Recognition

Sponsored by Oliver, C., et al.

Honors Nashville Electric Service line workers and state and Metro Nashville civil service employees for their response efforts during Winter Storm Fern.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

SB2028 | Wildlife Taking Regulation

Sponsored by Lowe, A.; Bowling, J.; Stevens, J.

Preempts local regulation of the manner and means of taking wildlife.

The act provides that lawful hunting methods, including firearm discharge while hunting, are governed by rules and proclamations of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission rather than local ordinance.

SB2597 | Wildlife Enforcement and Black Bear Feeding

Sponsored by Southerland, S.; Bowling, J.; Seal, J.

Authorizes the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to enter agreements with local law enforcement agencies for enforcement of wildlife laws and rules.

The act also creates a criminal offense for feeding black bears under specified circumstances.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB2560 | Department of Tennessee Emergency Management Authority

Sponsored by Lamberth, W., et al.

Creates the Department of Tennessee Emergency Management Authority (TEMA) and reorganizes state emergency management functions.

The act places TEMA under a commissioner, continues existing emergency management rules and agreements, authorizes local emergency management organizations and mutual aid arrangements, and assigns statewide coordination of emergency planning, response, and resource deployment to the department. It also authorizes specified emergency declarations affecting commercial vehicles used to restore or distribute electric power, fuel, and telecommunications services.

SB1880 | Office of Homeland Security

Sponsored by Johnson, J.; Roberts, K.; Hatcher, T.; Rose, P.

Creates the Office of Homeland Security within the Tennessee Department of Safety.

SB2232 | Governor's Response and Recovery Fund

Sponsored by Johnson, J., et al.

Establishes eligibility and use requirements for disaster assistance from the Governor's Response and Recovery Fund.

The act authorizes grants or loans to eligible local governments when state and local emergency declarations are in effect, federal disaster assistance is unavailable or inadequate, and specified damage thresholds and application requirements are met. Eligible projects include debris removal, emergency protective measures, transportation infrastructure, buildings, equipment, and public utilities such as water, sewage, electric, and communications systems. It also establishes criteria for individual assistance in qualifying counties and local cost-sharing requirements for grants.

Hazardous Waste

SB1884 | Drycleaner Environmental Response Program

Sponsored by Johnson, J.; Harshbarger, R.

Revises eligibility, funding, covered contamination, and administration of the Tennessee Drycleaner's Environmental Response Program.

The act requires recently abandoned drycleaning facilities to register before or with a petition for assistance, expands covered releases to include soil-gas vapor, and authorizes the Department of Environment and Conservation to contract directly for investigation, cleanup, monitoring, and maintenance. It raises the annual expenditure limit per facility to \$500,000, establishes a \$2 million total cap per facility, replaces existing deductibles with a 10 percent deductible capped at \$50,000, and broadens civil-penalty authority.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB0803 | Decentralized Wastewater Land Application Systems

Sponsored by Grills, R., et al.

Establishes approval, construction, bonding, and operating requirements for decentralized wastewater systems using land application.

The act generally limits engineering plan approvals to 12 months, allows extensions up to a cumulative 60 months, requires revised plans for material changes, and directs the Department of Environment and Conservation to adopt design and construction rules addressing siting, soils, hydraulic loading, reserve capacity, and protection of surface water, groundwater, and public health.

The measure also establishes performance bond requirements and a process for developers to offer qualifying subdivision systems to the utility serving the area, while exempting Hamilton County from that utility application requirement.

HB1500 | Humphreys County Water Authority

Sponsored by Reedy, J.

Creates the Humphreys County Water Authority, subject to local approval.

HB2667 | Southern Cumberland Plateau Regional Water and Wastewater Authority

Sponsored by Bricken, R.

Creates the Southern Cumberland Plateau Regional Water and Wastewater Authority, subject to local approval.

SB0520 | West Tennessee River Basin Authority Expansion

Sponsored by Roberts, K.; Stevens, J.

Expands the West Tennessee River Basin Authority's service area to include Perry, Stewart, Houston, and Humphreys Counties.

Solid Waste

SB1793 | Recycling Market Development

Sponsored by Reeves, S.; Bailey, P.; Bowling, J.; White, D.

Establishes the Office of Cooperative Marketing for Recyclables and the Recycling Market Development and Diversion Advisory Council.

The act directs the office to maintain recycling market information, inventories, and industry directories, support regional recycling programs, and promote markets for recyclable materials. The advisory council studies recycling markets, technology, market development, and regionalization and advises state officials; it has no regulatory, fee, taxing, or rulemaking authority and terminates June 30, 2030.

SB2547 | Solid Waste Disposal Planning

Sponsored by Reeves, S., et al.

Revises state solid waste planning requirements to address long-term disposal capacity.

The act declares a state policy of planning for sufficient landfill capacity for waste that is not recovered or recycled, requires each solid waste region to identify where waste will be disposed and managed for the next 10 years, and requires new or revised regional plans by July 1, 2028.

The background of the top half of the page is a close-up, high-resolution image of the Texas state flag. It features a large white five-pointed star on a blue field, with a white horizontal stripe above a red horizontal stripe. The word "TEXAS" is overlaid in a black box.

TEXAS

Texas does not hold a regular legislative session on even-numbered years.
However, we continue to monitor the state's legislature for any relevant special session bills.

The seal of the U.S. Virgin Islands is centered in the background. It features a yellow eagle with its wings spread, perched atop a shield with red and white vertical stripes. The eagle's talons hold a green olive branch and a bundle of yellow arrows. A blue banner is draped across the eagle's chest.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

In Brief: **Bill 36-248** establishes a commercial property-assessed clean energy (C-PACE) program for long-term financing of efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and resilience improvements. **Bill 36-214** and **Bill 36-215** authorize two St. Thomas solar arrays, adding new renewable generation. **Bill 36-232** permits controlled green waste incineration when preferred alternatives are unavailable, with safety, air-monitoring, and community-impact requirements.

Energy Legislation

Renewable Energy

Bill 36-214 | Estate Fortuna Solar Array Permit

Sponsored by Potter, M.

Approves the St. Thomas Coastal Zone Management Committee's consent to Major Coastal Zone Permit No. CZMJL0017-25.

The permit authorizes construction of a solar array on Parcels 3B and 2, Estate Fortuna, St. Thomas.

Bill 36-215 | Estate Bovoni Solar Array Permit

Sponsored by Potter, M.

Ratifies the St. Thomas Coastal Zone Management Committee's unanimous consent to Major Coastal Zone Management Permit No. CZMJL0018-25.

The permit authorizes construction of a solar array on Parcel 17 Remainder Bovoni, Estate Bovoni, St. Thomas.

Bill 36-248 | Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program

Sponsored by Lewis, A.

Establishes a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The program enables owners of qualifying commercial property to obtain long-term private financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and resilience improvements and repay the financing through a voluntary assessment tied to the property.

Environmental Legislation

Solid Waste

Bill 36-232 | Controlled Green Waste Incineration

Sponsored by Joseph, C.

Authorizes the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority and approved landfill operators to use controlled incineration technologies, including air curtain incinerators, for green waste when safer alternatives such as shredding, mulching, composting, or reuse are unavailable.

The measure establishes operating, sorting, fire safety, air monitoring, reporting, and community impact requirements for the technology.

VIRGINIA

In Brief: Board alternate Del. John McAuliff helped sponsor **HB1393 & SB253**, which pair energy-assistance funding with cost-allocation rules for customers using at least 25 MW, and **HB1102 & SB252**, which create geothermal renewable-energy certificate requirements. **HB507**, also sponsored by McAuliff, sets Tier 4-equivalent emissions limits for new data center backup generators. **HB895 & SB448** sharply expand Virginia's energy-storage targets, including long-duration storage. Data centers recur across the section: **HB323** studies waste-heat recovery, **HB496 & SB553** require separate reporting of water supplied to data centers, and **HB153 & SB94** require certain site-impact assessments. Virginia's unusually broad package reflects the scale of load growth confronting its grid and communities.

Energy Legislation

Carbon Capture & Storage

SB333 | Remediated Mine Gas Grant Program

Sponsored by Hackworth, T.; Mulchi, T.

Establishes the Remediated Mine Gas Grant Program to support projects that capture and sequester remediated mine gas.

The Department of Energy must award grants on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to legislative appropriations. Grant recipients must report by October 1 in any year funds are available, and the Department must summarize the reported information for legislative committees by the following January 1.

Cybersecurity & Digital Technology

HB1186 & SB394 | Artificial Intelligence in Public School Instruction

Sponsored by Rasoul, S.; Lopes-Maldonado, M.; Pekarsky, S.

Establishes statewide guidance and a pilot program for the use of artificial intelligence in public education.

The Department of Education must compile current uses of artificial intelligence and publish guidance for safe, ethical, and equitable use, and local school boards must adopt consistent policies. The measure also creates an Artificial Intelligence Systems Innovation in Education Pilot Program covering instructional, tutoring, student engagement, operational, and teacher support applications, with annual reporting through the program's expiration on July 1, 2030.

Efficiency & Weatherization

HB2 & SB72 | Low-Income Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Sponsored by Sickles, M.; Carr, B.; Glass, J.; Srinivasan, K., et al.

Directs Virginia's major investor-owned electric utilities to expand energy efficiency improvements for qualifying low-income households.

Subject to a State Corporation Commission public interest determination, Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power must make best reasonable efforts to provide prescribed efficiency measures and related improvements to at least 30 percent of identified qualifying households by December 31, 2031. The utilities must begin annual reporting by January 1, 2028, and make reasonable efforts to incorporate recommendations from the state's income-qualified energy efficiency task force.

HB3 & SB5 | Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force

Sponsored by Bolling, D., et al.; Locke, M.; Deeds, C.

Creates the Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force to identify barriers to participation in energy efficiency programs and improve coordination of services for income-qualified households.

The task force must develop recommendations and a plan for delivering weatherization-ready repairs and whole home efficiency retrofits to eligible households in multifamily buildings, single family homes, and manufactured homes by December 31, 2034, and report its findings by September 30, 2027.

HB70 | Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund Priorities

Sponsored by Feggans, M.; Callsen, K.

Revises project priorities and administration for the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund.

The act directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to give additional weight to local government projects located in low-income geographic areas and projects using nature-based solutions when distributing loans and grants. It also authorizes the Virginia Resources Authority to contract with an approved program administrator to assist with fund distribution.

HB323 | Data Center Waste Heat Recovery

Sponsored by Sullivan, R.; Cole, N.; Laufer, A.

Directs the Department of Energy to advance the use of waste heat from data centers.

The department must develop findings and recommendations and convene a work group to provide expertise and feedback. A report describing the department's efforts, findings, legislative proposals, and recommendations is due by September 1, 2026.

HB672 & SB256 | Minimum Energy and Water Conservation Standards

Sponsored by Lopes-Maldonado, M., et al.; McPike, J.

Establishes state minimum energy or water conservation standards for certain products if corresponding federal standards are removed.

If a product or product category is removed from the Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act framework, the Department of Energy must adopt standards equivalent to the last applicable federal standards with a compliance date on or before December 31, 2025. New products that fail to meet the state standards may not be sold, offered for sale, leased, or rented in the Commonwealth. The requirement does not apply where a standard has been set aside by a court or federal law preempts the state standard.

HB1062 & SB327 | Low-Income Energy Conservation and Storage Pilots

Sponsored by Hernandez, P.; McClure, A.; Callsen, K.; Helmer, D.; VanValkenburg, S.

Requires Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia to seek approval for pilot programs combining energy conservation, solar generation, and energy storage for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals.

Each utility must petition the State Corporation Commission by December 31, 2026. The Commission must also convene a technical conference by November 1, 2026, to evaluate an energy efficiency program

meeting specified requirements and, if feasible, require utility petitions by May 1, 2027. The provisions expire July 1, 2034.

HB1393 & SB253 | Energy Assistance, Weatherization, and Utility Cost Recovery

Sponsored by Bolling, D., et al.

Revises utility energy assistance and weatherization funding and several Dominion Energy Virginia cost recovery and rate provisions.

Appalachian Power must continue its assistance and weatherization pilot at between \$1 million and \$1.5 million annually, while Dominion must provide between \$156 million and \$204 million from July 1, 2026, through July 1, 2038; the pilots' sunset is extended to 2038.

The measure also authorizes recovery of costs for qualifying Dominion facilities approved by December 1, 2033, requires proposals allocating specified capacity and distribution costs to certain customers with demand of at least 25 megawatts, and requires a revised standby service tariff for customers with power plants effective January 1, 2028, subject to public interest and stranded cost protections. Dominion may also petition to securitize certain deferred fuel costs.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB317 & SB743 | Critical Infrastructure Damage and Trespass

Sponsored by Adams, K.; Herring, C.; Laufer, A.; Aird, L.; Boysko, J.

Expands criminal prohibitions on damaging public services, utilities, and critical infrastructure.

The act adds the intentional destruction of or damage to fixtures, equipment, or information technology systems used to provide, process, transmit, or maintain public services, public utilities, cable television, broadband, or other critical infrastructure to the existing offense of damage or trespass to public services or utilities.

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

HB1073 | Natural Gas Pipeline Leak Detection Standards

Sponsored by Rasoul, S.

Directs the State Corporation Commission to establish standards for pipeline leak detection technologies at certain intrastate natural gas distribution facilities.

The standards must be informed by the applicable federal gas pipeline safety rulemaking. The state requirements and implementing regulations expire when the corresponding federal final rule takes effect.

HB1102 & SB252 | Geothermal Renewable Energy Certificates

Sponsored by Singh, J.; Laufer, A.; Willett, R.; McAuliff, J.; Surovell, S.

Requires Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power to procure and retire specified amounts of renewable energy certificates from geothermal heating and cooling systems for renewable portfolio standard compliance.

The State Corporation Commission must report on geothermal certificate procurement and retirement by November 1, 2028. The measure also directs the Real Estate Appraiser Board to require continuing education on valuing real estate improvements associated with reductions in building energy costs from solar, geothermal, and solar water heating investments.

HB1360 | Coal and Oil Generation Fuel Cost Review

Sponsored by Shin, I.; Watts, V.

Requires investor-owned electric utilities to provide additional information on coal- and oil-fueled generating units in fuel factor proceedings.

The State Corporation Commission must use the information when determining the reasonableness and prudence of costs proposed for recovery through fuel-related rate adjustments.

SB459 | Liquefied Petroleum Gas Service Disconnections

Sponsored by Stuart, R.

Establishes requirements for liquefied petroleum gas providers when customers discontinue delivery service.

Within 14 days of a customer's request to stop service, the provider must offer in writing to remove remaining liquefied petroleum gas from the customer's storage tank and reimburse the customer at the prevailing rate. If accepted, removal and reimbursement must occur within 30 days. Violations are subject to the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

Renewable Energy

HB67 & SB25 | Offshore Wind Workforce Development

Sponsored by Feggans, M., et al.; Carroll Foy, J.; Anderson, J.

Directs the Department of Energy to identify and develop training resources to support workforce development in Virginia's offshore wind industry.

HB369 & SB598 | Renewable Portfolio Standard Cost Allocation

Sponsored by Reid, D.; Keys-Gamarra, K.; Thornton, V.; Deeds, C.

Revises renewable portfolio standard treatment for accelerated clean energy buyers.

The act revises the conditions under which such buyers may contract with Appalachian Power or Dominion Energy Virginia for capacity, energy, or renewable energy certificates from qualifying resources or facilities. It exempts participating buyers from non-bypassable renewable portfolio standard compliance costs in proportion to the qualifying renewable energy certificates obtained relative to the buyer's total electric energy consumption.

HB395 & SB250 | Small Portable Solar Generation Devices

Sponsored by Krizek, P., et al.; Surovell, S.; Suetterlein, D.

Establishes statewide rules for small portable solar generation devices used at residences.

The measure prevents localities from prohibiting qualifying devices and limits a landlord's ability to prohibit tenant installations when statutory requirements are met. It excludes the devices from specified net-metering programs and prohibits electric utilities and cooperatives from imposing interconnection requirements, charging device related fees, or requiring utility approval before installation or use. The State Corporation Commission must publish a customer notification form, and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade must convene a work group on applicable safety standards and requirements.

HB508 & SB340 | Agrivoltaics Definition

Sponsored by McAuliff, J., et al.; Perry, R.

Defines agrivoltaics for Virginia's small renewable energy project laws.

The act defines agrivoltaics as the intentional colocation of agricultural production and solar energy generation on the same land in a manner designed to sustain agricultural productivity while integrating renewable generation. Qualifying projects must allow ongoing production and sale of agricultural products, remain part of a commercial farm business, include decommissioning provisions protecting agricultural resources, avoid significant displacement of farming activity, and preserve flexibility for farmers to respond to market and operational needs.

HB590 & SB382 | Smart Solar Permitting Platform

Sponsored by Hernandez, P., et al.; Surovell, S.

Creates a statewide automated permitting platform for qualifying residential solar energy systems.

The Department of Energy must establish and launch the Smart Solar Permitting Platform by July 1, 2027, to streamline plan review and permit issuance for eligible systems. By July 1, 2028, localities must allow contractors to use the state platform or an alternative automated platform, with annual reporting required for localities using alternatives. The Department must also convene a work group on a potential permitting fee surcharge to defray state costs and report by November 1, 2026.

HB628 & SB175 | Renewable Portfolio and Power Purchase Agreement Amendments

Sponsored by Callsen, K.; Clark, N.; Glass, J.; Guzman, E.; VanValkenburg, S.

Revises Dominion Energy Virginia's renewable portfolio standard requirements and third-party power purchase agreement rules.

The act requires 4.5 percent of Dominion's renewable portfolio standard requirements for the 2026 through 2030 compliance years and five percent for the 2031 through 2045 compliance years to be met with renewable energy certificates from in-state solar, wind, or anaerobic digestion resources of one megawatt or less. It delays from 2025 to 2027 the requirement that at least 75 percent of certain renewable energy certificates come from eligible in-state resources and removes the 50-kilowatt minimum size for solar or wind facilities participating in the third-party power purchase agreement pilot program.

The State Corporation Commission must review future availability of qualifying small resource certificates by July 1, 2033, and may adjust the required percentage by up to one percentage point. The measure also states a policy of encouraging renewable development on previously developed project sites to reduce land-use impacts.

HB683 & SB659 | Solar Interconnection Grant Program

Sponsored by Herring, C.; Bennett-Parker, E.; New Craig, C.; Carroll Foy, J.

Establishes the Solar Interconnection Grant Program and Fund to offset grid interconnection costs for public solar projects.

The Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency within the Department of Energy must award competitive grants to public bodies, with priority given to solar facilities on previously developed project sites. The Division must publish program guidelines and award criteria. The program expires July 1, 2027.

HB711 & SB347 | Local Siting Standards for Solar Facilities

Sponsored by Herring, C.; VanValkenburg, S.

Establishes statewide parameters for local review of certain ground-mounted solar facilities.

For facilities of at least one megawatt proposed on agricultural, commercial, industrial, or institutional property, local ordinances may address specified criteria including setbacks, fencing, panel height, visual impacts, grading, and decommissioning unless the project is otherwise permitted by right. Localities must

provide the State Corporation Commission with records of special exception decisions, and the commission must maintain a searchable public database of those decisions and reasons for adverse determinations.

The requirements apply to local applications filed on or after July 1, 2026; applications received and accepted before that date remain subject to the ordinances in effect when filed.

HB807 & SB254 | Dominion Shared Solar Expansion

Sponsored by Sullivan, R.; Clark, N.; Cole, N.; Surovell, S.

Expands Dominion Energy Virginia's shared solar program.

The act authorizes an additional 525 megawatts of capacity for the second phase of the program upon the earlier of 90 percent subscription with substantial project completion or July 1, 2026. Dominion must petition the State Corporation Commission to determine capacity for a third phase by the time 268 megawatts of the second phase are substantially complete.

The commission must evaluate program costs and benefits when determining future capacity and program design and update its regulations by December 31, 2026; participating utilities must file necessary tariffs, agreements, and forms by March 1, 2027.

HB809 & SB255 | Appalachian Power Shared Solar Expansion

Sponsored by Sullivan, R.; Clark, N.; Cole, N.; Surovell, S.

Expands Appalachian Power's shared solar program.

The measure permits excess bill credits to be distributed to subscribers more than once per year and requires net crediting on customer utility bills. Appalachian Power must release 50 megawatts of additional shared solar capacity on July 1, 2026, another 50 megawatts by January 1, 2028, and petition the State Corporation Commission by May 1, 2029, to determine capacity for a subsequent program phase.

HB891 & SB443 | Battery Storage at Solar Facilities

Sponsored by Shin, I., et al.

Treats certain battery energy storage projects as permitted accessory uses at approved commercial solar sites.

A battery project located within a parcel covered by an approved special exception for a commercial solar photovoltaic facility may proceed without a separate special exception or other local land use approval if it complies with applicable safety, fire, and environmental requirements. Localities retain authority to enforce applicable codes and safe operation requirements, and developers may still negotiate siting agreements.

A qualifying battery project with an initial interconnection request filed before July 1, 2030, and constructed under the act is subject to applicable local ordinances and regulations in effect on July 1, 2026.

HB1234 & SB26 | Solar Canopies in Parking Area

Sponsored by Sewell, B., et al.; Carroll Foy, J.

Authorizes localities to require solar canopies over portions of certain large nonresidential surface parking areas.

A local ordinance may apply to parking areas with at least 100 new contiguous spaces and may require solar canopy coverage of up to 50 percent. Deviations must be available when zoning or density restrictions conflict with the requirement or shading and other impediments would reduce expected generation below specified levels. Electricity generated by the canopy may offset use at the parking area or an adjoining building on the same account. The authority takes effect July 1, 2027.

HB1439 & SB823 | Residential Solar Contracts and Disclosures

Sponsored by Shin, I.; Bagby, L.

Establishes contract and disclosure requirements for the sale, lease, or power purchase of residential solar energy systems.

The Board for Contractors may require specified contract provisions and disclosures, and written agreements must address the solar installation company, system design and performance or production guarantees, invoices, and payments. Willful violations are subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation. The board must adopt implementing regulations by January 1, 2027, when the remaining provisions also take effect.

HB1444 & SB225 | Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank

Sponsored by Lopez, A.; Surovell, S.

Establishes the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank to finance clean energy, greenhouse gas reduction, and other qualifying projects.

The Bank may provide grants, loans, credit enhancements, and other financing and must operate under an advisory board. The measure establishes planning, investment, outreach, audit, and reporting requirements for the Bank's activities.

SB645 | Waste-to-Energy Renewable Project Permitting

Sponsored by Surovell, S.

Expands the definition of a small renewable energy project for permit-by-rule purposes to include certain waste-to-energy facilities using anaerobic digestion technology.

The provision applies to facilities in Planning District 8 with rated capacity of no more than 100 megawatts that generate electricity from biomass, energy from waste, or municipal solid waste and are capable by January 1, 2030, of processing most organic waste, including food waste and municipal sludge, through anaerobic digestion. The Department of Environmental Quality must assess technologies to reduce carbon dioxide and methane emissions and produce biomethane and recommend legislative changes needed to support such projects by December 1, 2026.

Reorganization & Coordination

SB515 | Energy Commission of Virginia

Sponsored by Deeds, C.

Renames the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation as the Energy Commission of Virginia.

Utilities

HB30 | 2026 Budget Bill

Sponsored by Torian, L.

Establishes a data center electricity consumption tax of \$0.011 per kWh, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028.

HB84 & SB777 | Regional Transmission Organization Voting Reports

Sponsored by Laufer, A., et al.; Rouse, A.

Requires investor-owned electric utilities and licensed electricity suppliers participating in PJM Interconnection to report their regional transmission organization voting activity to the State Corporation Commission each year.

The report must identify recorded votes cast by the utility, supplier, and affiliates during the prior calendar year and explain how each vote serves the public interest. Municipal utilities and specified electric cooperatives are exempt.

HB242 | Utility Budget Plan Payment Limits

Sponsored by Cole, J., et al.

Limits increases to residential utility budget plan payments.

The measure prohibits a public utility from increasing a residential customer's monthly budget plan payment more than once within any 12-month period and requires at least 60 days' written notice before an increase takes effect. The provisions do not apply to utilities furnishing water or sewerage service.

HB284 & SB371 | Demand Flexibility Programs for High Energy Demand Customers

Sponsored by Feggans, M., et al.; McPike, J.; Srinivasan, K.

Requires electric utilities and cooperatives to develop voluntary demand flexibility programs for high energy demand customers.

Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power must petition the State Corporation Commission by January 15, 2027, for approval of programs that may use multiple forms of demand flexibility. Electric cooperatives serving high energy demand customers must establish programs by January 1, 2029. The investor-owned utilities must report on program status three years after approval and every three years thereafter, and the Commission must include annual program information in an existing report beginning in 2028.

HB285 & SB223 | Distributed Energy Resources Task Force

Sponsored by Helmer, D.; VanValkenburg, S.; Hashmi, G.

Establishes the Distributed Energy Resources Task Force.

The advisory commission is charged with developing a comprehensive strategy to advance integrated distributed energy resource markets and support compliance with applicable regulations. The measure establishes the Task Force's membership, powers, duties, and reporting requirements and provides for reports to the Governor, State Corporation Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and specified legislative committees. The Task Force expires July 1, 2027.

HB422 | Water Utility Rate Filing Frequency

Sponsored by Cole, N., et al.

Limits how frequently regulated water utilities may seek general rate increases.

A public utility furnishing water or water and sewer service may not file for a rate increase more than once in any three-year period. Exceptions apply to applications for rate decreases, rate adjustment clauses, riders or surcharges, temporary emergency increases, or increases approved by the State Corporation Commission upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances. The provisions take effect only if reenacted by the 2027 General Assembly.

HB429 & SB249 | Integrated Resource Planning Reform

Sponsored by Bolling, D.; Surovell, S.

Revises electric utility integrated resource planning requirements.

The act extends the planning horizon from 15 to 20 years, requires Appalachian Power to file integrated resource plans, and changes the filing cycle from every two years to every three years. Utilities must evaluate grid-enhancing technologies as alternatives to new transmission infrastructure and consider surplus interconnection service for new generation and energy storage.

The measure also requires a third-party-facilitated stakeholder process with access to utility modeling tools, assumptions, inputs, and data, and directs the State Corporation Commission to establish planning and public engagement guidelines, periodically review existing integrated resource plan orders, and convene a work group on the new guidelines.

HB434 & SB621 | Electric Grid Utilization Metrics

Sponsored by Bolling, D.; Glass, J.; Srinivasan, K.

Requires Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power to develop electric grid utilization metrics.

Each utility must petition the State Corporation Commission for approval of the metrics by October 15, 2026, and assess current grid performance against optimal use of existing assets. The Commission must include in an existing annual report its findings on the metrics and the potential to improve grid utilization through non-wires alternatives.

HB466 & SB310 | Transmission Project Review Deadlines

Sponsored by Cohen, L.; Hackworth, T.

Establishes deadlines for State Corporation Commission review of certain electric transmission projects.

The Commission must complete proceedings involving applications for certificates, permits, or approvals required for construction or operation of specified public utility transmission lines within nine months. The Commission may extend the period by up to 120 days for certain transmission applications.

HB562 & SB487 | Electric Cooperative Virtual Power Plants

Sponsored by Reid, D.; McPike, J.

Authorizes electric cooperatives to establish virtual power plant programs.

The act defines a virtual power plant as an aggregation of distributed energy resources operated in coordination to provide grid services. Participating cooperatives may offer residential customers incentives to purchase battery storage devices and must evaluate methods to optimize demand.

HB770 & SB650 | Low-Income Water and Sewer Utility Rates

Sponsored by Herring, C.; Keys-Gamarra, K.; Bolling, D.; Marsden, D.; Srinivasan, K.

Authorizes regulated water and sewer utilities to offer discounted rates to qualifying low-income customers.

A utility may propose, and the State Corporation Commission may approve, discounted service for customers with annual household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The utility may recover the cost of the discounts through rates charged to commercial and industrial customers. The provisions take effect January 1, 2027.

HB828 & SB516 | Electric Utility Disconnection Reporting

Sponsored by Herring, C.; Deeds, C.

Requires investor-owned electric utilities and electric cooperatives to report residential service disconnections.

Monthly reports to the State Corporation Commission must include the number of accounts disconnected for nonpayment, reconnection timing, arrearage amounts, participation in payment assistance programs, and serious medical condition certifications. The Commission must publish the information in an accessible online database and submit an annual executive summary on disconnection trends beginning September 1, 2027. The requirements take effect July 1, 2027.

HB833 | Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Development

Sponsored by McClure, A.; Cole, N.; Keys-Gamarra, K.; Bolling, D.

Authorizes localities to require electric vehicle charging infrastructure in certain developments and directs a state study of supporting electrical infrastructure.

Beginning July 1, 2027, a locality may include in its subdivision ordinance requirements for electric vehicle supply equipment, EV-ready spaces, or EV-capable parking spaces in developments containing commercial, industrial, or multifamily residential uses. The Department of Energy must evaluate distribution infrastructure needed to support charging in new single-family and multifamily developments, recommend appropriate charging-space requirements for new commercial and industrial developments, and report by November 15, 2026.

HB884 | Percentage of Income Payment Program

Sponsored by Herring, C.

Expands eligibility and revises payment limits under the Percentage of Income Payment Program for electric customers.

Beginning January 1, 2027, eligible participants' electric bill payments are limited to no more than three percent of annual household income when the primary heating source is not electricity and no more than five percent when electricity is the primary heating source. Eligibility is expanded to retail customers of Dominion Energy or Appalachian Power with household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The Department of Social Services must update program rules and guidelines in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development as needed.

HB889 & SB497 | Transmission Siting in Existing Corridors

Sponsored by Shin, I., et al.; Perry, R.

Establishes a state policy prioritizing existing linear infrastructure corridors for new electric transmission facilities.

The Department of Transportation must convene a work group to identify opportunities and recommend changes to regulations and permitting processes that would facilitate efficient siting of new transmission infrastructure within existing state highway rights-of-way.

HB892 | Electric Load Forecasting and RPS Planning

Sponsored by Shin, I., et al.

Adds renewable portfolio standard forecasting information to Dominion Energy's integrated resource plan and directs review of utility load forecasting practices.

Dominion Energy must provide information on forecast compliance with renewable portfolio standard requirements, excluding specified customers that obtain electricity through accelerated clean energy arrangements or licensed suppliers. The State Corporation Commission must initiate a proceeding by March 1, 2027, to investigate load forecasting practices used by Dominion Energy, Appalachian Power, and electric distribution cooperatives.

HB893 | Energy Storage in Integrated Resource Planning

Sponsored by Sullivan, R.

Requires Dominion Energy to evaluate energy storage resources in its integrated resource plan.

The utility must use modeling that accounts for economic charging and discharging periods and multiple economic scenarios, systematically evaluate energy storage resources, and may propose investments in such resources through the integrated resource plan.

HB895 & SB448 | Expanded Energy Storage Targets

Sponsored by Sullivan, R., et al.; Bagby, L.

Raises and extends Virginia's energy storage procurement targets and establishes planning, safety, and demonstration requirements.

Appalachian Power must petition for approval to construct, acquire, or procure at least 780 megawatts of short duration storage by 2040 and 520 megawatts of long duration storage by 2045. Dominion Energy Virginia must seek at least 16,000 megawatts of short duration storage and 4,000 megawatts of long duration storage by 2045. An independent auditor approved by the State Corporation Commission will assist with criteria and review of requests for proposals.

The commission must conduct a long duration storage technology demonstration program and determine by March 1, 2031, whether the technology is viable and the statutory targets are reasonably achievable, with certain provisions contingent on that finding. The Department of Energy must develop model local ordinances for energy storage projects by December 1, 2026, and the commission must hold a technical conference on energy storage safety standards and practices by September 1, 2026.

HB898 | Utility Disconnection and Reconnection Fee Caps

Sponsored by Herring, C.; Helmer, D.

Requires the State Corporation Commission to establish maximum disconnection and reconnection fees for certain regulated utilities.

In the next relevant cost recovery proceeding, the commission must determine the maximum fees that regulated electric companies, natural gas suppliers, and water or wastewater utilities may charge residential customers whose service is disconnected for nonpayment.

HB903 & SB251 | Performance-Based Electric Utility Regulation Study

Sponsored by Sullivan, R.; Carroll, S.; Surovell, S.

Directs the State Corporation Commission to evaluate performance-based regulation for electric utilities.

The commission must independently consider whether elements of a performance-based regulatory framework that could improve utility performance and cost control incentives are in the public interest and develop related legislative recommendations. Findings and recommendations must be included in a report due by July 1, 2027.

HB921 | Competitive Retail Electricity Access

Sponsored by Lopez, A.; Favola, B.

Expands access to licensed competitive electricity suppliers for large nonresidential customers.

A nonresidential customer of Appalachian Power or Dominion Energy Virginia whose noncoincident peak demand exceeded five megawatts during the most recent calendar year may purchase electric energy from a licensed supplier. The act also reduces the advance notice required for such a customer to return to service from the incumbent utility from five years to 18 months.

HB1002 | Utility Disconnection Procedures

Sponsored by Tran, K., et al.

Revises nonpayment disconnection procedures for certain electric, natural gas, and water or wastewater utilities.

Utilities must provide required disconnection notices in an additional language for customers in localities subject to corresponding multilingual election material requirements. Before disconnecting residential

service, covered utilities must make reasonable efforts to offer bill payment assistance, arrange a payment plan, or provide information about other payment assistance or energy savings programs. The Department of Elections must publish and update a list of covered localities beginning September 1, 2026.

HB1065 & SB508 | Surplus Interconnection Service Pilots

Sponsored by Hernandez, P., et al.; VanValkenburg, S.; Bagby, L.; Carroll Foy, J.; Srinivasan, K.

Directs Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia to assess available interconnection capacity at existing and planned intermittent generation facilities and establish pilot programs using surplus interconnection service.

The pilots must include requests for proposals for energy storage resources and solar generation facilities that use available surplus interconnection service. The utilities must include the results in their 2027 plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity.

HB1144 | Water and Sewer Connection Fee Assistance

Sponsored by Martinez, M.

Authorizes local assistance with water and sewer connection costs for certain residential development.

Localities may fully or partially reimburse first-time homebuyers for water and sewer connection fees, capital recovery charges, and availability fees paid in connection with new residential development. A locality with an affordable dwelling unit ordinance may also waive those fees and charges for development subject to that ordinance.

HB1151 & SB423 | Electric Service Delays for Grid Reliability

Sponsored by Willett, R.; Perry, R.; Srinivasan, K.

Authorizes electric distribution utilities to delay new or expanded service when necessary to maintain grid reliability or address generation or transmission capacity constraints.

A utility may also delay service as needed to comply with applicable State Corporation Commission or Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rules governing load interconnection. The provisions take effect July 1, 2027.

HB1191 & SB377 | Electric Cooperative Substation Agreements

Sponsored by Shin, I., et al.

Authorizes an electric cooperative to contract with certain large-load members for construction of a substation serving the member.

The authority applies to members with demand of at least 20 megawatts and an interconnection voltage of at least 230 kilovolts. Ownership of the completed substation transfers to the cooperative, while the member remains responsible for operation and maintenance costs. Construction and related costs may not be included in general or base rates or shifted to other ratepayers.

HB1225 & SB407 | Transportation Electrification and Fast-Charging Infrastructure

Sponsored by Shin, I.; Keys-Gamarra, K.; Boysko, J.

Establishes utility planning and cost-recovery provisions for transportation electrification and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Dominion Energy Virginia and Appalachian Power may file tariffs for utility-owned distribution infrastructure supporting electric vehicle charging and must file transportation electrification plans by February 1, 2028, and every three years thereafter. Costs may be recovered only through generation and

distribution rates. The act also limits utility-owned public fast-charging stations near privately owned fast chargers under State Corporation Commission rules, with specified restrictions expiring July 1, 2031.

HB1255 | Net-Metering Standby Charge Threshold

Sponsored by Shin, I.

Raises the capacity threshold at which specified monthly standby charges may apply to eligible net-metered generating facilities.

The measure increases the aggregate nameplate capacity threshold from 15 kilowatts to 20 kilowatts alternating current.

HB1256 & SB505 | Fuel and Purchased Power Risk Mitigation

Sponsored by Shin, I.; Guzman, E.; Reaser, A.; Salim, S.; Deeds, C.

Directs the State Corporation Commission to examine electric utility practices for managing fuel and purchased power cost risks by Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power.

The commission must evaluate the efficacy and sufficiency of applicable risk mitigation practices in fuel cost recovery proceedings and annual filings and include related findings and recommendations in its existing reporting requirements.

HB1361 & SB294 | Residential Utility Billing Records

Sponsored by Lopes-Maldonado, M.; Cousins, R.; Price, M.; Tran, K.; Aird, L.

Revises residential utility billing notice and recordkeeping requirements.

Termination notices must include applicable energy and utility billing debits and credits. Owners of residential buildings must retain records showing monthly calculations of energy and utility billing fees and a 12-month or tenancy-length payment history and make those records available to tenants without the previously authorized fee. The provisions take effect July 1, 2027.

HB1467 | Appalachian Power Virtual Power Plant Pilot

Sponsored by Franklin, L.; Hernandez, P.

Requires Appalachian Power to seek approval for a pilot program evaluating demand-optimization technologies, including virtual power plants.

The utility must petition the State Corporation Commission by July 1, 2027. The pilot must evaluate grid capacity needs and the ability of virtual power plants and related technologies to provide grid services such as peak-load reduction.

HB1487 & SB827 | Underground Transmission Line Pilot Program

Sponsored by Singh, J., et al.; Srinivasan, K.; Marsden, D.

Expands the State Corporation Commission pilot program for underground construction of qualifying 500-kilovolt transmission projects.

The commission may approve up to four qualifying applications filed between January 1, 2025, and July 1, 2033, and provide expedited review. Projects must satisfy criteria addressing technical feasibility, projected costs, local support and funding commitments, and the public interest. A locality choosing underground construction must fund at least 50 percent of the marginal undergrounding cost through authorized local financing methods. The commission's final pilot report is due December 1, 2034.

HB1491 | Transmission Line Siting Near Buildings

Sponsored by Singh, J., et al.

Establishes siting considerations for certain high-voltage electric transmission lines near occupied buildings.

For lines of at least 138 kilovolts, the State Corporation Commission must determine that the selected route reasonably minimizes adverse impacts on dwellings. For Dominion Energy Virginia overhead lines of at least 500 kilovolts, routes generally must be prioritized so the centerline is more than 150 feet from dwellings, schools, day care centers, and places of worship unless no practicable alternative exists.

SB43 | Demand Response Program Study

Sponsored by Roem, D.

Directs the Department of Energy to evaluate electrical demand response programs in the Commonwealth.

The study must examine potential benefits and impacts, best practices, and implementation recommendations for demand response programs and report its findings by November 1, 2026.

SB267 | Existing Electric Utility Infrastructure Study

Sponsored by VanValkenburg, S.

Directs the Department of Energy and State Corporation Commission to analyze existing electric utility infrastructure for cost saving opportunities that improve or preserve reliability as an alternative or supplement to new greenfield infrastructure.

The analysis must be conducted in consultation with Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia and is contingent on sufficient voluntary funding for independent consulting services. A report is due by December 1, 2026.

SB818 | Large Customer Retail Electricity Choice

Sponsored by Suetterlein, D.; Srinivasan, K.

Expands retail electricity choice for certain large customers of Appalachian Power and Dominion Energy Virginia.

A customer whose noncoincident peak demand exceeded five megawatts during 2024 or a later year may purchase electricity from a licensed competitive supplier. The supplier must meet annual renewable portfolio standard requirements on an aggregate basis for electricity sold within the incumbent utility's service territory.

Environmental Legislation

Coastal Zone Management

HB52 | Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Sponsored by Bloxom, R.

Establishes a state policy favoring the beneficial use of dredged material beginning December 1, 2027.

The act directs the Marine Resources Commission to require beneficial use for permits involving dredged material unless the material or proposed application is unsuitable under commission criteria, gives priority consideration to qualifying beneficial use project sites, and requires a work group to assist with implementing regulations or guidance.

HB237 | Coastal Resilience Marsh Migration Planning

Sponsored by Lopez, A.; Thornton, V.

Requires the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan to address marsh migration.

The act directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation, when updating the plan, to identify areas where marshes may migrate in response to sea level rise.

HB390 | Habitat Policy Oversight Committee

Sponsored by Askew, A.

Establishes the Habitat Policy Oversight Committee within the Marine Resources Commission.

The committee advises the Commission and its Habitat Management Division on policies within their jurisdiction and supports the Commission's coastal resilience efforts. The act establishes the committee's powers, duties, appointment process, and membership of 11 voting members and two ex-officio members.

HB521 | Wetlands Requirements

Sponsored by Hernandez, P.

Requires wetland protection standards and permits to maintain no net loss of existing wetland acreage and functions.

The Marine Resources Commission must incorporate the no-net-loss objective into minimum standards for wetland protection and conservation, and permits for wetland use or development must require sufficient compensation for impacts. The Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources must also convene a stakeholder work group on mitigation requirements for tidal nonvegetated wetlands and report findings and recommendations by July 1, 2027.

Community & Environmental Health

HB88 | Invasive Plants on Highway Rights-of-Way

Sponsored by Laufer, A.; Seibold, H.

Prohibits state transportation authorities from planting species listed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation as invasive on state highway rights-of-way.

The act also directs the Department of Transportation to review the processes and resources needed to determine the prevalence of listed invasive plants and develop options for their removal, control, and ongoing management.

HB109 | Noxious Weed Commercial Phase-Outs

Sponsored by Seibold, H.

Expands the state's noxious weed framework to include commercially viable or propagated plants.

The act removes the commercial viability exclusion from the definition of a noxious weed and establishes phase-out periods for commercially propagated plants designated as noxious weeds: two years for grasses, forbs, and vines; four years for shrubs; and seven years for trees. It also directs a review of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services' authority over noxious weeds with recommendations due November 1, 2026.

HB112 & SB344 | Captive Mammalian Wildlife Protection

Sponsored by Laufer, A.; Boysko, J.; Stanley, W.

Establishes restrictions on premature separation and commercial hybridization of captive mammalian wildlife.

The act generally prohibits separating captive-born mammalian wildlife from the mother before four months of age or another species-specific age set by regulation, with exceptions for veterinary necessity, specified zoological and wildlife management activities, federal and state agencies, agricultural animals, and short-term emergency neonatal care. It also prohibits intentionally propagating different mammalian wildlife species for commercial purposes.

HB256 & SB425 | Environmental Justice Strategies in Comprehensive Plans

Sponsored by Simonds, S., et al.; Bagby, L.; Aird, L.

Requires certain localities to consider environmental justice strategies during comprehensive plan reviews.

Beginning July 1, 2026, cities with populations greater than 20,000 and counties with populations greater than 100,000 must consider adopting such a strategy at the next and each subsequent comprehensive plan review. A strategy would identify environmental justice and fenceline communities, establish objectives and policies to reduce health risks and promote civic engagement, prioritize improvements and programs addressing community needs, and establish baseline environmental and health conditions.

HB291 | Fishing Tackle Recycling Education

Sponsored by Anderson, J., et al.

Requires public education on the recycling and disposal of fishing tackle.

The Department of Wildlife Resources must develop and maintain a dedicated webpage explaining responsible recycling and disposal practices for fishing tackle. The department must update the materials at least every three years in consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders.

HB388 & SB89 | Invasive Plant Control by Service Districts

Sponsored by Callsen, K., et al.; Salim, S.; Boysko, J.

Authorizes local service districts to control invasive plants.

A service district may control the spread of any plant identified on the Department of Conservation and Recreation's list of invasive plant species.

HB549 & SB589 | Tree Canopy Conservation and Replacement

Sponsored by Hope, P., et al.; Salim, S.

Expands local authority to require tree conservation and replacement during development.

The act extends specified tree planting and replacement authority statewide, permits higher canopy replacement percentages based on development density, revises the standard for granting ordinance exceptions, and allows localities to monitor tree canopy conditions for up to 20 years after planting. It also allows certain towns in Planning District 8 to apply specified canopy criteria 10 years after development and directs the Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience to convene a work group to review tree canopy laws and regulations and report by November 1, 2026.

HB597 | Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund

Sponsored by Simonds, S., et al.

Establishes the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund for projects that conserve or enhance wildlife corridors and related crossing infrastructure.

The Department of Wildlife Resources administers the fund in collaboration with the Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Forestry, and Transportation, with grants directed to projects prioritized by the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. The measure authorizes voluntary contributions through Department

of Motor Vehicles transactions and individual income tax returns and requires reporting to the General Assembly by November 1 of each odd-numbered year.

HB1037 | Climate and Environmental Literacy Instruction

Sponsored by Carr, B., et al.

Requires the Board of Education to provide instructional resources and model selection policies for climate change and environmental literacy materials.

The materials and policies must be based on peer-reviewed scientific sources. Selected instructional materials must accurately portray changes in weather and climate patterns over time, human impacts on those changes, and climate change effects on people and resources.

HB1266 | Environmental Justice Permitting Guidance

Sponsored by Tran, K.; Cousins, R.

Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to update its environmental justice guidance for permitting decisions.

The revised guidance must address cumulative impacts associated with permitting and outreach to affected communities. The Department must hold two public town halls by July 31, 2026, respond to comments by October 31, and issue final guidance by December 31, 2026.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

HB169 & SB98 | Emergency Management Needs Work Group

Sponsored by Askew, A.; Stanley, W.; Cifers, L.; McDougale, R.; Pillion, T.

Establishes a work group to evaluate emergency management needs and funding in the Commonwealth.

The measure directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to assess existing emergency management needs, the sustainability of current funding, and alternative funding models used in other states. The work group must report its findings and recommendations to specified House and Senate committees by October 1, 2026.

HB347 | Emergency Operations Plan Review Cycle

Sponsored by McLaughlin, E.

Extends the review cycle for local and interjurisdictional emergency operations plans.

The measure changes the required frequency for reviewing and updating such plans from every four years to every five years.

HB1189 | State of Preparedness Mitigation Study

Sponsored by O'Quinn, I., et al.

Directs the Department of Emergency Management to study a program that would prioritize prevention and mitigation activities before or during anticipated emergencies.

The study must examine the feasibility and effects of using a state of preparedness for imminent emergencies and circumstances that do not warrant a state of emergency. Findings and recommendations are due by November 1, 2026.

SB197 | Community Flood Preparedness Financing

Sponsored by Williams Graves, A.

Defers repayment obligations for certain Community Flood Preparedness Fund loans supporting recurrent flooding projects and studies.

For qualifying loans to localities and federally recognized tribes, interest does not begin accruing and repayment is not required until the funded project or study is completed or canceled.

Emissions & Pollution

HB397 & SB802 | Regional Greenhouse Gas Trading Program

Sponsored by Herring, C., et al.; Locke, M.; Carroll Foy, J.

Requires Virginia to establish and maintain a market-based carbon dioxide emissions trading program consistent with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The Department of Environmental Quality and the State Air Pollution Control Board must administer the program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generating units in the Commonwealth.

HB507 | Data Center Backup Generator Emission Standards

Sponsored by McAuliff, J.; Simonds, S.; Singh, J.; Thomas, J.

Establishes an emission standard for engine generators at new data centers.

For data center air permit applications submitted on or after July 1, 2026, the Department of Environmental Quality may not issue a permit unless the emission limit for each engine generator is no greater than the emissions achieved by a Tier 4 equivalent engine generator.

HB938 & SB138 | Industrial PFAS Discharge Monitoring

Sponsored by Clark, N., et al.; McPike, J.; Perry, R.

Requires certain industrial users of publicly owned treatment works to conduct and report PFAS discharge monitoring.

Covered industrial users must conduct quarterly monitoring for an initial one-year characterization period and report laboratory results to the publicly owned treatment works within 30 days. Monitoring may be discontinued after the first two quarters when results remain below the method detection level, but detections above that level require continued quarterly monitoring. Publicly owned treatment works must report received results quarterly to the Department of Environmental Quality and notify covered industrial users of the initial monitoring requirement.

Hazardous Waste

HB1072 | PFAS Testing of Land-Applied Sewage Sludge

Sponsored by Laufer, A.; Simonds, S.

Authorizes localities to test and monitor land-applied sewage sludge for per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances within their boundaries.

Testing must use an applicable method established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Expenses incurred for such local testing and monitoring are not eligible for reimbursement from the Sludge Management Fund.

HB1443 & SB386 | PFAS Testing for Sewage Sludge

Sponsored by Lopez, A.; Clark, N.; Rasoul, S.; Stuart, R.

Requires testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in sewage sludge that is land applied, marketed, or distributed beginning January 1, 2027.

Covered sewage treatment works must sample and analyze sludge through an accredited laboratory, with land-application requirements varying according to measured PFAS concentrations. The Department of Environmental Quality must modify applicable Virginia Pollution Abatement and Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits as necessary. A stakeholder process must develop recommendations for reducing PFAS concentrations in sewage sludge by November 1, 2027.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB496 & SB553 | Water Use Reporting for Data Centers

Sponsored by Guzman, E., et al.; Srinivasan, K., et al.

Requires certain registered water users to separately report potable and reclaimed water supplied to data centers.

A registered water user that provides water offsite must report, on its regular reporting schedule, monthly potable and reclaimed water volumes supplied to data centers with Department of Environmental Quality air permits. To the extent available without modifying utility billing systems, the report must also categorize water supplied for domestic, commercial, industrial, and other purposes. The requirements take effect January 1, 2027.

HB747 | Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Reporting Consolidation

Sponsored by Runion, C.; McLaughlin, E.

Consolidates reporting on Virginia's agricultural commitments under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan.

The measure requires the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources to incorporate the agricultural commitments report into the annual impaired waters clean-up plan report rather than submit it separately.

HB952 | Industrial Stormwater Nutrient Credits

Sponsored by Lopez, A.; Runion, C.

Allows certain point-source nutrient credits to be used for industrial stormwater permit nutrient reduction compliance for calendar years 2025 and 2026.

The measure permits qualifying credits generated through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Credit Exchange Program to count toward compliance, subject to specified conditions. The Department of Environmental Quality must prioritize enforcement when permittees fail to achieve sufficient on-site reductions or acquire sufficient credits and convene a work group to recommend future industrial stormwater nutrient reduction requirements by November 1, 2026.

HB1149 | Lead Service Line Inspections

Sponsored by Hodges, K.; Shin, I.

Authorizes local water systems and water authorities to enter exterior portions of private property to identify service line materials for federal lead service line requirements.

The system, authority, or its agent must provide at least 14 days' advance notice before entering at a reasonable time and must provide the customer with records and results from the inspection. The authority expires July 1, 2028.

HB1325 | Manufactured Home Flood Insurance Notices

Sponsored by Lopes-Maldonado, M.

Requires specified flood insurance information in manufactured home lot rental agreements entered into, extended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2026.

The required notice must inform tenants about flood insurance considerations. Failure to provide the notice does not invalidate the rental agreement.

HB1381 & SB784 | Bioslurry Injection in Groundwater Management Areas

Sponsored by Bloxom, R.; Stuart, R.

Prohibits bioslurry injection into a well drilled through any portion of a groundwater management area declared before January 1, 2020.

HJR16 | Recurrent Flooding Study

Sponsored by Convirs-Fowler, K.

Continues the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding for an additional year.

The joint subcommittee will continue its work through the 2027 interim to study recurrent flooding and related resilience issues in the Commonwealth.

SB453 | Untreated Sewage Discharge Penalties

Sponsored by Stuart, R.

Establishes a maximum civil penalty of \$50,000 per violation for intentionally discharging untreated sewage onto land or into waters of the state.

Land Management

HB153 & SB94 | Data Center Site Assessments

Sponsored by Thomas, J., et al.; Roem, D.; Ebbin, A.

Requires site assessments before certain local approvals for new high energy use facilities, including data centers.

Applicants must assess the facility's sound profile for residences and schools within 500 feet of the property boundary. Localities may also require assessment of effects on ground and surface water, agricultural resources, parks, registered historic sites, and forestland, and the act preserves existing local zoning authority while providing specified exceptions for previously approved facilities and certain expansions.

HB749 | Fertilizer and Lime Permit Requirements

Sponsored by Runion, C.; Fowler, H.

Revises permit requirements governing bulk liming materials and regulated products.

The act allows a distributor holding a valid license to distribute a regulated product to sell bulk liming material. It also removes duplicative statutory provisions concerning permit expiration, permit fees, and the commissioner's authority to issue notices and collect fees for failure to obtain a required permit.

HB759 | Highland Wildlife Management Area Easements

Sponsored by Runion, C.; McLaughlin, E.

Authorizes reciprocal access easements involving the Highland Wildlife Management Area.

The Department of Wildlife Resources may convey a non-exclusive easement and right-of-way to A1 Land LLC along Davis Run Road for access to the company's property and may accept a similar easement across the company's property to provide access to the wildlife management area.

HB846 | Conservation Easement Holding Requirements

Sponsored by Pugh Kent, H.; Laufer, A.

Allows waiver of joint public-body holding requirements for certain conservation easements supported by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

The Virginia Land Conservation Board of Trustees may waive the requirement when an easement holder acquires an interest other than fee simple through a foundation grant or transfer, provided the holder is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission or meets comparable standards and the easement grants a third-party right of enforcement to the Department of Conservation and Recreation or another public body.

HB1350 | Erosion and Sediment Control Penalties

Sponsored by Pugh Kent, H.

Increases civil penalty limits for certain erosion and sediment control violations.

The act raises the maximum civil penalty the Department of Environmental Quality Director may impose by special order from \$10,000 to \$32,500 and increases the local per-violation maximum under a Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program from \$1,000 to \$32,500. For specified land-disturbing activities between 10,000 square feet and one acre outside Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas and not part of a larger common plan, penalties are capped at \$5,000 per violation and \$50,000 for a related series of violations.

Solid Waste

HB341 | Plastic Bag Tax Revenue Distribution

Sponsored by Martinez, M.; Shin, I.; Reid, D.

Requires counties imposing a disposable plastic bag tax to distribute a portion of the revenue to towns located within the county.

The distribution must follow the local sales tax distribution formula used for appropriations to towns. Towns receiving the revenue may use it only for the same purposes authorized for counties and cities under the disposable plastic bag tax law.

HB1011 & SB226 | Organic Waste Diversion and Compost Procurement

Sponsored by Tran, K.; Surovell, S.

Authorizes local measures to support compost procurement and diversion of organic waste from disposal.

The act allows localities to prefer locally produced compost or other products containing organic soil amendments in tie bids. Localities may also require generators of large quantities of organic waste to separate and divert that waste from final disposal and may impose civil penalties after first issuing a warning. The measure further states legislative intent that new and renovated public school facilities include infrastructure for separate disposal of trash, recyclables, food scraps, and liquid waste.

WEST VIRGINIA

In Brief: **HB5381** directs a comprehensive energy and grid-security plan through 2050 spanning coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, hydrogen, and geothermal resources. **SB648** creates statewide rules for strategic and critical mineral development and limits local regulation. Board member Sen. Chris Rose and alternate Sen. Rupie Phillips sponsored **SB686**, modernizing coal co-tenancy, while Rose sponsored **SR32**, supporting continued operation of coal-fired power plants. **SR28** adds an economic-development and AI dimension by seeking funding for an Energy Manufacturing AI Corridor, and **HB4008** expands support for utility infrastructure at business-ready industrial sites. The section strongly emphasizes reliability, domestic resources, and energy-intensive economic development.

Energy Legislation

Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements

HB4126 | State Park Mineral Royalty Distribution

Sponsored by Riley, C.

Revises the use of mineral royalty revenue associated with state-owned rights beneath the Ohio River and its tributaries.

Beginning July 1, 2026, 50 percent of qualifying royalties deposited in the State Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund may be used for operation, maintenance, and improvement of state parks, forests, and rail trails. If the fund balance reaches at least \$100 million, all qualifying royalty revenue may be used for those purposes; when the balance is below that level, the 50 percent limitation applies.

SB104 | Mine Inspector Compensation

Sponsored by Garcia, J., et al.

Provides a \$4,000 salary increase for state mine inspectors.

SB648 | Strategic and Critical Resources Act

Sponsored by Morris, R., et al.

Establishes statewide regulation for development of strategic and critical resources and preempts specified local regulation of resource extraction and related facilities.

The act defines covered critical minerals and materials, including lithium, rare earth elements, uranium, and resources identified on federal critical mineral lists. Outside municipal and urban areas, regulatory authority over extraction and resource facilities is reserved primarily to the state and federal governments, while generally applicable business licensing, property and sales taxes, utility rates, service fees, and building codes remain available. Federal environmental, natural resource, and public health requirements and state laws implementing those requirements are preserved.

Cybersecurity & Digital Technology

SR28 | Energy Manufacturing AI Corridor Funding Request

Sponsored by Clements, C., et al.

Urges the current administration, Governor Patrick Morrisey, the legislature, and representatives of both state and federal government bodies to secure funding to extend and build the I-68 Energy Manufacturing AI Corridor from the junction with I-79 near Morgantown, West Virginia, to West Virginia Route 2 at Kent, West Virginia, then across the Ohio River to Clarington, Ohio, to I-77 near Caldwell, Ohio, and eventually westward to I-75 between Dayton and Middletown, Ohio.

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

HB5381 | Comprehensive Energy Policy and Grid Security

Sponsored by Hanshaw, R.; Hornbuckle, S.

Consolidates energy development functions under the Office of Energy and directs development of comprehensive state energy and grid security planning.

The act establishes the Comprehensive Energy Policy and Development Plan Act of 2026 and directs the office to prepare a long-term energy policy through at least 2050 addressing resources including coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, hydrogen, and geothermal energy. The office must develop five-year energy plans, strategies for energy development and energy-ready communities, a comprehensive grid stabilization and security plan, and a state energy security plan with emergency exercises and regular reporting.

SB641 | Aboveground Storage Tank Regulation

Sponsored by Rose, C.; Helton, B.; Rucker, P.; Tarr, E.

Revises the statutory framework for aboveground storage tanks.

The act modifies the definition and regulatory treatment of covered tanks and exceptions, including requirements affecting tanks in zones of critical or peripheral concern. It also allows specified remote nondestructive examination methods for certain periodic physical inspections, reducing the need for confined-space entry.

SB686 | Coal Co-Tenancy Modernization and Miners Protection Act

Sponsored by Rose, C.; Phillips, R.

Establishes a co-tenancy framework for certain coal estates to facilitate lawful coal mining, extraction, and production when ownership interests are fragmented.

The act provides specified exceptions from waste and trespass liability for qualifying coal development conducted under the new framework.

SR32 | Supporting the Continued Operation of Coal-Fueled Power Plants

Sponsored by Rose, C., et al.

Affirms legislator commitments to support the continued operation and utilization of West Virginia's coal-fired power plants at an annual capacity factor of at least 69 percent.

The measure expresses support for protecting coal miners, coal-related employment, and coal-producing communities and opposing regulatory, financial, or operational actions that could contribute to mine closures or job losses.

The resolution further states that coal should remain a central component of the state's energy mix and that energy policies should prioritize reliability, affordability, long-term in-state employment, and the retention of economic benefits within West Virginia communities.

Utilities

HB4008 | Business Ready Sites Utility Infrastructure

Sponsored by Maynor, J., et al.

Expands the West Virginia Business Ready Sites Program to support utility infrastructure needed for qualifying industrial sites.

The program addresses sites of at least 50 contiguous acres lacking adequate regulated electric, natural gas, water, or sewage service. Utilities may submit multi-year infrastructure plans to the Public Service Commission, which may approve expedited recovery of prudent and useful project costs. Qualifying sites may also receive support through the Certified Sites and Development Readiness Fund, including specified micro-grant assistance for site development.

HB4464 | Underground Facilities Damage Prevention

Sponsored by Kyle, J.; McCormick, D.; Leavitt, T.

Revises West Virginia's underground facilities damage prevention framework.

The act updates definitions, membership and enforcement provisions for the Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Board, one-call membership requirements, and excavation notification and utility location duties. It generally requires underground facilities to be located within 48 hours unless the parties agree to an extension and revises penalties and training requirements for violations, including higher penalties for repeated, gross, or willful noncompliance.

SR50 | Public Service Commission Study

Sponsored by Roberts, R., et al.

Requests the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the effectiveness and efficiency of the Public Service Commission in carrying out its statutory duties and legal authority.

The study includes the commission's regulation of utility rates and services, service reliability, and ratepayer concerns and may result in recommendations for legislative action.

Environmental Legislation

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

SB243 | Disaster Repair and Recovery Severance Tax Credit

Sponsored by Phillips, R.; Rose, C.

Creates a severance tax credit for qualifying expenditures on disaster repair and recovery projects in West Virginia.

Eligible taxpayers may receive credits for certified project expenditures, subject to per disaster and annual program limits, and may apply the credit against a portion of annual severance tax liability with unused amounts carried forward for up to 10 years. The Department of Environmental Protection certifies qualifying projects and expenditures. The credit applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Emissions & Pollution

SB886 | Prescribed Fire on Private Property

Sponsored by Hamilton, B., et al.

Allows prescribed fire control activities on private property without a burning permit.

Inland Water Quality & Management

HB4215 | Water Well Regulations

Sponsored by Smith, D.

Authorizes the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to water well regulations.

SB586 | Public Water System Backflow Preventers

Sponsored by Martin, P.; Taylor, J.

Prohibits the Secretary of the Department of Health from promulgating rules that require public water systems or businesses to install backflow preventers.

Land Management

HB4696 | Abandoned Mine Land Federal Funds

Sponsored by Anderson, W., et al.

Authorizes federal funding provided under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Safeguarding Treatment for the Restoration of Ecosystems from Abandoned Mines Act to be deposited into West Virginia's Abandoned Land Reclamation Fund.

Reorganization & Coordination

SB256 | Department of Environmental Protection Rule Authorizations

Sponsored by Rucker, P.

Authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate legislative rules addressing multiple energy and environmental regulatory programs.

The authorized rules concern alternative emissions limitations during startup and shutdown operations, ambient air quality standards, new stationary source standards, solid waste combustion air pollution, hazardous waste facilities and management, hazardous air pollutants, interstate nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide requirements, water quality standards, and the carbon dioxide sequestration fee schedule.

Solid Waste

SB1059 | Solid Waste Carrier Contracts

Sponsored by Maynard, M.

Authorizes solid waste motor carriers and commercial customers to enter service agreements with terms longer than one year.

NATIONAL

In Brief: National activity reflected several major energy policy trends. Ohio's **HB170** and Indiana's **HB1368** establish state regulatory frameworks for carbon capture and geologic storage, including Class VI underground injection control wells and long-term stewardship. Utah's **SB0135** advances nuclear fuel recycling and planning for a potential Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus. Utah's **HB0401** and **SB0021**, Colorado's **SB142**, and Arizona's **HCR2057** advance geothermal development through research, regulatory reforms, streamlined permitting, and expanded opportunities for geothermal energy. Collectively, these measures reflect growing state interest in emerging energy technologies and domestic energy infrastructure.

Energy Legislation

Carbon Capture & Storage

Colorado

HB1303 | Energy and Carbon Management Technical Updates

Sponsored by Bradley, B., et al.

Makes technical changes to statutes administered by the Energy and Carbon Management Commission.

The act replaces an inapplicable welding examination reference with examinations used in the oil and gas industry and updates statutory references from “oil and gas operations” to “energy and carbon management operations.”

Indiana

HB1368 | Carbon Dioxide Storage and State Utility Billing

Sponsored by Soliday, E.; Koch, E.; Niezgodski, D.

Establishes a state regulatory framework for geologic carbon dioxide storage and directs Indiana to seek federal authority for state regulation of Class VI underground injection control wells.

The Natural Resources Commission must seek primary enforcement authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Class VI program and may adopt implementing rules governing injection wells and underground carbon dioxide storage. The act excludes the existing carbon sequestration pilot project from the new framework and specifies that its Class VI wells are not experimental.

The measure also requires utilities serving Department of Natural Resources property to accept specified payment methods without setting limits below \$10,000 or fewer than five transactions per invoice and, when operationally feasible, to provide consolidated billing for a property upon request.

New Hampshire

HB1205 | Public Land Carbon Sequestration Programs

Sponsored by Davis, A.; Tierney, J.; Durkin, S.; Cole, B.

Prohibits fee-simple land owned by the state or a county from being enrolled in a timber carbon sequestration program.

Ohio

HB170 | Carbon Capture and Geologic Storage Framework

Sponsored by Robb Blasdel, M., et al.

Establishes a statewide framework for carbon capture and geologic storage.

The legislation grants the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management sole authority to regulate carbon sequestration and storage facilities in Ohio, except for activities that remain under federal jurisdiction. It directs the division to adopt rules governing Class VI injection well permits, inspections, monitoring, reporting, operational safety, water protection, financial assurance, site closure, and liability insurance.

The measure also allows an applicant that has secured consent from owners of at least 70 percent of the proposed pore space to seek statutory consolidation of the remaining interests following documented good faith negotiations. The process includes notice and hearing requirements and provides for fair and reasonable compensation to affected pore space owners without transferring their ownership interests or granting surface access rights.

The law establishes that pore space generally belongs to the owner of the surface estate unless it has been expressly severed or conveyed. It also creates fees on each metric ton of carbon dioxide injected to support state administration, post-closure site care, remediation, and host community needs. After specified closure requirements are satisfied and a certificate of project completion is issued, primary responsibility for the stored carbon dioxide may transfer to the state, subject to exceptions.

Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements

Utah

SCR009 | MINES Center

Sponsored by Millner, A.; Shallenberger, D.

Supports creating the Minerals for Industrial, National, and Economic Security Center (MINES Center) as a shared research and commercialization hub for critical mineral extraction and processing technologies.

The center would support pilot projects, technology testing, workforce training, industry-academic partnerships, and federal grant coordination. The measure requests state agencies and universities to assist the center, encourages the federal government to distribute critical minerals funding through block grants, and asks Utah's congressional delegation to pursue federal designation and funding for a critical minerals national laboratory in Utah.

Cybersecurity & Digital Technology

Rhode Island

S2198 | Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Study Commission

Sponsored by DiPalma, L., et al.

Creates a ten-member special legislative commission to study blockchain, cryptocurrency, non-fungible tokens, Rhode Island's existing laws, and approaches adopted in other states.

The commission must consult industry experts and recommend legislation that supports blockchain and cryptocurrency businesses while providing appropriate consumer protections, and it must meet at least four times annually, submit an interim report by January 5, 2027, and issue its final recommendations by January 5, 2028. The commission expires February 5, 2028.

Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy

Arizona

HCR2057 | Next Generation Geothermal Permitting

Sponsored by Martinez, T.

Supports development of next generation geothermal energy and a coordinated state permitting roadmap.

The resolution expresses support for standardized guidance across Arizona regulatory agencies, alignment of existing agency rules, and a predictable permitting process for geothermal projects. It also recognizes geothermal energy as a potential resource for supporting advanced manufacturing and economic development.

Colorado

SB142 | Thermal Energy Networks and Geothermal Development

Sponsored by Ball, M., et al.

Authorizes local thermal energy networks and expands mechanisms for geothermal energy development.

Local governments and special districts may provide thermal energy network service and issue bonds for related infrastructure. The act raises the maximum generating capacity of a community geothermal garden from 5 megawatts to 25 megawatts and directs the Energy and Carbon Management Commission and Colorado Geological Survey to collect geothermal data and submit recommendations by November 15, 2026.

Investor-owned utilities must identify potential geothermal projects and solicit proposals in separate categories for projects of 25 megawatts or less and projects exceeding 25 megawatts. Qualifying proposals are submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for review under a 120-day process.

Nebraska

LB548 | Municipal Natural Gas Contracts

Sponsored by Lippincott, L.

Authorizes certain municipally owned natural gas systems to contract with large industrial consumers outside their normal service areas.

A first- or second-class city or village may, on or before January 1, 2027, contract with a qualifying industrial consumer located within 100 miles if specified usage, service history, supplier, and contract duration requirements are met. The governing body must determine by resolution that the arrangement does not create unreasonable financial risk, and the industrial consumer is treated as being within the local distribution service area for purposes of the contract.

Ohio

SB219 | Oil and Gas Well Regulation

Sponsored by Landis, A., et al.

Revises laws governing oil and gas wells.

The legislation modifies procedures for leasing state-owned oil and gas formations, including nomination and bidding timelines, required lease provisions, confidentiality of submitted information, and execution of leases. It extends the optional renewal period for state leases from three to five years and permits certain lease terms and payments to be deferred during federal grant restrictions, litigation, or other qualifying circumstances.

The measure defines and establishes permitting requirements for stratigraphic wells used solely to study or test subsurface geology. It also revises well permit applications, financial assurance, liability coverage, brine and production-waste regulation, well transfers, and the responsibilities of owners and operators. Appeals of specified oil and gas orders are moved from Franklin County to the court of common pleas in the county where the matter originated.

Further, the law recognizes certain road-use agreements associated with horizontal well permits as vehicle permits within the limits established by those agreements. It also clarifies the tax treatment of businesses primarily engaged in gathering natural gas and applies that change beginning in tax year 2027.

Utah

HB0401 | Geothermal Development Study

Sponsored by Watkins, C.; Hinkins, D.

Directs Utah State University to study the geological and environmental impacts of geothermal energy development.

The study must evaluate subsurface conditions, geothermal development techniques, impacts at or near operating or former coal-fired generation sites, and practices that may minimize geological and environmental effects. Utah State University must complete the study by October 31, 2027, and report its findings to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.

SB0021 | Geothermal Resource Ownership and Regulation

Sponsored by McKell, M.; Albrecht, C.

Revises ownership, permitting, and financial assurance provisions for geothermal resources.

The act provides that geothermal resource ownership generally follows the surface estate unless expressly conveyed or reserved, while reserving geothermal resources associated with state and institutional trust lands to the applicable trust. It lowers the statutory temperature threshold for geothermal fluid and resources from 120 to 100 degrees Celsius, clarifies that use of geothermal fluid requires a water right, and revises well record confidentiality, surety bond, and inspection provisions.

Washington

HB2367 | Coal Facility Climate and Tax Preferences

Sponsored by Fitzgibbon, J., et al.

Eliminates specified Climate Commitment Act and tax preferences associated with a qualifying coal-fired electric generating facility.

Beginning January 1, 2026, emissions from the qualifying coal-fired facility are no longer exempt from Climate Commitment Act coverage. The act also removes restrictions on additional or inconsistent greenhouse gas requirements affecting the facility and certain coal-generated power purchases and repeals sales and use tax exemptions for coal consumed at a qualifying thermal electric generating facility.

Wyoming

HB0120 | Industrial Sovereign Zones for Natural Gas Manufacturing

Sponsored by Campbell, K., et al.

Establishes industrial sovereign zones to encourage value-added manufacturing using natural gas.

The Wyoming Energy Authority may establish zones nominated by county commissioners and provide qualifying facilities with coordinated licensing assistance and expedited permit processing. The act provides specified tax exemptions for machinery and natural gas consumed in qualifying value-added manufacturing

processes, including methane pyrolysis and ammonia synthesis, and creates a voluntary certification for products meeting specified methane intensity standards.

Nuclear Energy

Utah

SB0135 | Nuclear Fuel Recycling and Innovation Campus

Sponsored by Owens, D.; Albrecht, C.

Expands state coordination and planning for nuclear fuel recycling and related nuclear energy development.

The act authorizes the Office of Energy Development to coordinate with public and private entities and local communities on nuclear fuel recycling facilities and authorizes the Utah Energy Council to provide strategic guidance and preliminary assessments. It also authorizes pursuit of a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus that may include fuel fabrication, uranium conversion and enrichment, used fuel reprocessing, advanced modular reactors, microreactors, and related nuclear supply chain development, and requires analysis and reporting on state legal or regulatory barriers.

Renewable Energy

Colorado

HB1213 | Biomass Utilization Grant Program Repeal

Sponsored by McCormick, K., et al.

Repeals the Biomass Utilization Grant Program following the program's sunset review.

Reorganization & Coordination

Utah

SCR004 | Oil, Gas, and Mining Permitting Coordination

Sponsored by Winterton, R.; Albrecht, C.

Supports formalizing a cooperative permitting agreement between the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The resolution urges negotiations to expand state participation in technical review of oil, gas, and mining permit applications on federal land to reduce duplicative review and permitting time while recognizing that the Bureau of Land Management retains final, nondelegable authority over federal leases and permits.

Utilities

Hawaii

SR157 | Generational Energy Commitment Review

Sponsored by Lee, C.

Requests the Public Utilities Commission to apply specified decision-making principles when considering a generational energy commitment for the state.

The resolution asks the commission to exercise independent judgment, consider short-term needs alongside long-term commitments, use evidence-based decision-making, and maintain transparency. It also asks the commission to evaluate proposals involving liquefied natural gas or other imported fuels for their potential effects on the state's renewable portfolio standards, including the 2045 deadline.

Kansas

HB2435 | Gas System Reliability Surcharge Expansion

Sponsored by Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

Expands the infrastructure investments natural gas utilities may recover through the gas system reliability surcharge.

The act broadens qualifying investment to include additional utility plant, facility, and equipment costs, including growth-related investments that may connect new customers. It raises the permitted annual increase in the monthly residential surcharge from \$0.80 to \$1.35 and requires the State Corporation Commission to issue an order on surcharge petitions within 90 days rather than 120.

Maine

LD1949 | Residential Electricity Affordability

Sponsored by Carney, A., et al.

Adds residential affordability considerations to electric utility regulation and directs a review of electricity delivery costs.

The measure requires the Public Utilities Commission, while ensuring system reliability, to consider residential affordability in carrying out its duties and to publish specified credit and collection data for large transmission and distribution utilities. It also directs the commission to review electric delivery rate components for opportunities to contain customer costs, reduce bill volatility, and improve transparency, and to develop an affordability metric measuring electricity bills as part of residential energy burden.

Ohio

SB103 | Large-Load Natural Gas Rate Plans

Sponsored by Wilkin, S., et al.

Authorizes alternative natural gas rate plans for large-load customers and revises public utility property valuation procedures.

The act permits qualifying natural gas companies to propose alternative rate arrangements for large-load customers, subject to Public Utilities Commission review and protections for existing customers. It also allows natural gas, waterworks, and sewage-disposal utilities to use forecasted test periods in specified rate cases and updates related valuation and reporting requirements.

Washington

HB1903 | Statewide Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

Sponsored by Mena, S., et al.

Establishes a statewide low-income energy assistance program within the Department of Commerce to reduce household energy burdens.

Commerce and the Utilities and Transportation Commission must adopt implementing rules and phase participating utilities into the program. Assistance must be prioritized according to household need, provided through tiered monetary benefits, and passed through participating utilities to eligible customers. The program is funded through specified appropriations rather than a utility surcharge and is supplemental to existing utility and Clean Energy Transformation Act assistance programs. The program expires June 30, 2035.

SB6076 | Consumer-Owned Utility Clean Energy Procurement

Sponsored by Goehner, K.; Salomon, J.; Lovelett, L.; Saldana, R.

Streamlines procurement requirements for certain clean energy infrastructure developed by consumer-owned utilities through January 1, 2045.

The measure establishes procurement provisions for nonemitting and renewable generation, energy storage, and transmission and distribution projects, increases thresholds for specified in-house work, and authorizes vendor list procedures for certain purchases. Municipal utilities may waive competitive bidding for qualifying electric facilities or projects when specified specialized, reliability, or operational conditions are met.

Wisconsin

SB556 | Energy Storage Utility Aid Payments

Sponsored by James, J., et al.

Establishes municipal and county utility aid payments for qualifying energy storage and liquefied natural gas storage facilities.

Energy storage facilities are eligible for payments based on generating capacity, while liquefied natural gas storage facilities receive payments based on net book value, with allocations generally following existing utility aid formulas. The measure covers specified grid-connected storage technologies and applies to payments made after January 1, 2027.

Environmental Legislation

Community & Environmental Health

Colorado

SB052 | Coal Transition Worker Hiring and Community Investment

Sponsored by Catlin, M., et al.

Creates employment preferences for coal transition workers and expands investment authority for coal-transition communities.

Qualifying private businesses constructing or operating railroads, utilities, energy generation facilities, or advanced manufacturing projects in coal transition communities must provide qualified coal transition workers a first and preferred employment opportunity. Employers must make good faith efforts and report annually to the Office of Just Transition, subject to exceptions for a lack of applicants, declined offers, unmet qualifications, internal transfers, and collective bargaining obligations.

The measure also authorizes public entities to invest settlement payments or other funds intended to offset the effects of coal mine or power plant closures under an approved investment policy.

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

California

AB35 | Environmental Bond Program Guidelines

Sponsored by Alvarez, D., et al.

Exempts specified environmental bond program guidelines from standard rulemaking requirements.

The legislation allows state entities administering programs under the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 to develop program guidelines and

project selection criteria outside the Administrative Procedure Act. The exemption applies to programs supported by the \$10 billion general obligation bond approved by voters as Proposition 4 in 2024.

Before distributing competitive grants under the exemption, a state entity must publish draft solicitation and evaluation guidelines for at least 30 days of public comment, hold a public meeting, respond in writing to submitted comments, and offer consultation to affected tribes. Final guidelines generally must be submitted to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for review and posted online, with copies provided to appropriate legislative committees.

Emissions & Pollution

Colorado

HB1226 | Power Plant Nitrogen Oxide and Sulfur Dioxide Limits

Sponsored by Froelich, M., et al.

Requires state air quality rules limiting nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions from certain electric generating units.

By July 2029, the Air Quality Control Commission must adopt a final rule for utility-owned or utility-operated units in Colorado that emitted at least 200 tons of either pollutant in 2024. Covered units must comply as soon as practicable after December 31, 2034.

The measure exempts units that permanently cease operation before the end of 2029, burn only natural gas or fuel oil, or operate qualifying emissions controls.

HB1362 | Decarbonization Tax Credit Fund Repeal

Sponsored by Sirota, E., et al.

Repeals the Decarbonization Tax Credits Administration Cash Fund on July 1, 2027.

Hawaii

SB2999 | Clean Fuel Standard

Sponsored by Lee, C.

Requires the Department of Transportation to establish a clean fuel standard for alternative transportation fuels.

The department must adopt rules by January 1, 2028, and may draw on similar programs in California, Oregon, and Washington. The rules must include a credit-clearance market and maximum credit price, and the department must calculate and publish annual per-gallon compliance costs for gasoline and diesel and make a public determination regarding specified actions if those costs exceed 15 cents per gallon.

The measure also requires annual reports and public informational sessions concerning implementation of the standard.

Maine

LD2037 | Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Emissions Budgets

Sponsored by Kessler, C.

Establishes updated annual carbon dioxide emissions budgets under Maine's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative program.

The act replaces the prior post-2026 annual reduction formula with specified emissions budgets beginning at 2,065,595 tons in 2027 and declining annually to 221,314 tons in 2037 and each year thereafter.

LD1870 | Greenhouse Gas Emissions Cost Assessment

Sponsored by Brenner, S., et al.

Directs the Department of Environmental Protection to assess the total costs to Maine associated with greenhouse gas emissions from 1995 through 2024.

The assessment must address incurred and projected costs associated with effects on public health, natural resources, biodiversity, agriculture, economic development, flood preparedness and safety, and other identified areas, as well as costs to abate those effects. The department must report its findings to specified legislative committees by January 1, 2028.

Utah

HB0185 | Carbon Credit Transactions

Sponsored by Shelley, T.; Owens, D.

Establishes reporting and enforcement provisions for carbon credits sold or exchanged by state entities.

The act requires state entities to obtain a digital identification number and report specified credit and transaction information to the state auditor before a sale or exchange, and it requires annual reporting on state carbon credit revenues and transactions. It also creates the Carbon Credit Litigation Fund from specified litigation proceeds and appropriations for authorized litigation and recovery activities involving carbon credit or greenhouse gas requirements.

HB0240 | Carbon Dioxide System Licensing

Sponsored by Nguyen, H.; Owens, D.

Establishes licensing and certification requirements for servicing large carbon dioxide systems.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the act requires businesses that inspect, install, maintain, repair, or modify systems with capacity of at least 100 pounds of carbon dioxide to be licensed by the state fire marshal and generally requires individuals performing that work to be certified. The Utah Fire Prevention Board must establish qualification, renewal, revocation, application, and fee requirements, with exemptions for fire officers and certain supervised trainees.

Washington

HB2215 | Climate Commitment Act Fuel Supplier Thresholds

Sponsored by Fitzgibbon, J., et al.

Revises Climate Commitment Act compliance obligations for certain fuel suppliers beginning with the program's second compliance period.

The act lowers the annual compliance threshold from 25,000 to 500 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent for specified suppliers of gasoline, diesel, biodiesel, and propane that began supplying fuel on or after January 1, 2023, subject to a limited exception for certain 2023 entrants. Fuels delivered for final use outside Washington are excluded, and the Department of Ecology may adjust the threshold. Beginning January 1, 2027, emissions from lubricants used for their intended purpose are exempt, and sellers under specified state and local fuel contracts must be registered under the program or document fuel acquisition from a covered or opt-in entity.

HB2416 | Waste-to-Energy Climate Commitment Allowances

Sponsored by Hill, N., et al.

Establishes temporary no-cost Climate Commitment Act allowance treatment for a qualifying waste-to-energy facility newly subject to the program.

Through 2030, the facility receives allowances based on a declining share of its baseline emissions, with 40 percent consigned to auction for Department of Ecology-approved greenhouse gas reduction projects and 60 percent used for solid waste ratepayer benefit. By December 1, 2030, the facility must submit a greenhouse gas reduction plan consistent with state 2040 and 2050 emissions limits and waste and material recovery goals. The measure also adjusts electric utility no-cost allowance treatment to avoid duplicate emissions coverage.

SB6246 | Emissions-Intensive Trade-Exposed Allowances

Sponsored by Slatter, V.; Shewmake, S.; Saldana, R.

Revises Climate Commitment Act requirements for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed facilities and future no-cost allowance treatment.

The Department of Ecology must submit recommendations by December 1, 2026, addressing the 2035 through 2050 allowance schedule, emissions leakage adjustments, potential auction consignment for decarbonization, and related policies. Beginning December 1, 2028, and every four years thereafter, covered facilities must report emissions information and submit professionally reviewed assessments of feasible five- to 10-year emissions reduction projects, including efficiency, technology, fuel switching, and energy conversion options. Failure to submit required information may result in civil penalties.

Hazardous Waste

Rhode Island

H7734 | Consumer PFAS Ban Enforcement

Sponsored by Cortvriend, T., et al.

Clarifies enforcement and administrative provisions of the Consumer PFAS Ban Act of 2024.

The measure authorizes the Department of Environmental Management to require manufacturer certifications, issue notices and compliance orders, seek equitable relief, and impose civil penalties for violations beginning January 1, 2027. It also authorizes product exemptions under specified criteria and interstate information sharing through a multijurisdictional PFAS clearinghouse.

Inland Water Quality & Management

Kansas

HB2433 | County Authority Over Water Transfers

Sponsored by Wasinger, B.

Limits county regulation of water transfers and appropriations that are governed by state water law.

Counties may not impose permits, fees, conditions, or restrictions that conflict with, duplicate, or are more stringent than decisions of the Chief Engineer or Water Transfer Hearing Panel. The limitation applies to state-regulated transfers and appropriations, while counties retain authority over specified domestic water uses through zoning and sanitary code powers.

Land Management

Wyoming

SJ0001 | State Administration of Federal Mineral Leases

Sponsored by Select Federal Natural Resource Management

Requests Congress to amend the federal Mineral Leasing Act to authorize Wyoming to administer and manage mineral leasing on federal lands located within the state.

Reorganization & Coordination

Washington

HB2251 | Climate Commitment Act Account Reorganization

Sponsored by Fitzgibbon, J.; Gregerson, M.; Parshley, L.; Thomas, B.

Reorganizes accounts and revenue distributions under the Climate Commitment Act.

The measure repeals the Climate Investment, Natural Climate Solutions, and Climate Commitment accounts, creates Climate Commitment Act Operating and Capital accounts, and renames the Carbon Emissions Reduction Account as the Climate Commitment Act Transportation Account. It revises allowable expenditures to include emissions reduction, climate resilience, utility-scale renewable generation and storage, clean firm generation and storage, carbon capture, mineralization, and sequestration, and establishes updated formulas for distributing auction proceeds among operating, transportation, and capital purposes.

Solid Waste

Hawaii

SB2175 | Disposable Smoking Device Ban

Sponsored by Richards, T., et al.

Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the state beginning on January 1, 2027.

ABOUT US

The Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) is a nonprofit interstate compact organization created in 1960 and established under Public Laws 87-563 and 92-440. Sixteen southern states and two territories comprise the membership of SSEB: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, and West Virginia. Each jurisdiction is represented by the governor and a legislator from the House and Senate. A governor serves as the chair and legislators serve as vice-chair and treasurer. Ex-officio non-voting Board members include a federal representative appointed by the President of the United States, the Southern Legislative Conference Energy and Environment Committee Chair, and SSEB's executive director, who serves as secretary.

SSEB was created by state law and consented to by Congress with a broad mandate to contribute to the economic and community well-being of the southern region. The Board exercises this mandate through the creation of programs in the fields of energy and environmental policy research, development and implementation, science and technology exploration, and related areas of concern. SSEB serves its members directly by providing timely assistance designed to develop effective energy and environmental policies and programs and represents its members before governmental agencies at all levels.

OUR GOALS

- Perform essential services that provide direct scientific and technical assistance to state and territorial governments;
- Develop, promote, and recommend policies and programs on energy, environment, and economic development that encourage sustainable growth;
- Provide technical assistance to executive and legislative policymakers and the private sector in order to integrate energy, environmental, and economic priorities that ensure energy security and supply;
- Facilitate the implementation of energy and environmental policies between federal, state, territorial, and local governments and the private sector;
- Sustain business development throughout the region by eliminating barriers to the use of efficient energy and environmental technologies; and
- Support improved energy-efficient technologies that contribute to a clean global environment while protecting indigenous natural resources for future generations.



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