



Fiscal Impact Statement for Proposed Legislation

Virginia State Corporation Commission

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Senate Bill 249

Version: House Substitute 1

Patron: Surovell

Title: Electric utilities; integrated resource plans.

Summary as Passed Senate: Makes various changes related to the content and process for an integrated resource plan (IRP) developed by an electric utility that provides a forecast of its load obligations and a plan to meet those obligations. The bill (i) extends the planning timeframe from 15 to 20 years; (ii) requires Appalachian Power to file an IRP by removing an exception from the definition of "electric utility"; (iii) changes the frequency that a utility is required to file an IRP from biennially to triennially; (iv) requires utilities to consider the use of grid-enhancing technologies as alternatives to new transmission infrastructure, and when new transmission lines are envisioned, to provide the reasons grid-enhancing technologies are not sufficient to defer or eliminate the need for new transmission infrastructure; and (v) requires utilities to consider the use of surplus interconnection service, as defined in the bill, to add new electric generation projects and energy storage resources to the grid.

The bill requires that the current stakeholder review process for integrated resource plans be facilitated by a third-party facilitator selected by the State Corporation Commission and compensated by the utility. The bill requires, as part of the stakeholder review process, the utility to provide stakeholders with reasonable access to the same modeling software, modeling assumptions, modeling inputs, and data used by the utility to evaluate supply and demand resources in its integrated resource plan to enable stakeholders to create modeling scenarios for the utility's consideration during the development of its integrated resource plan.

The bill requires the State Corporation Commission to (a) establish guidelines that ensure that utilities develop comprehensive integrated resource plans and provide meaningful public engagement and maximum transparency during the planning process; (b) conduct a proceeding by July 1, 2027, and at least once every five years thereafter, to identify and review each of its existing orders relevant to integrated resource plans to determine if such orders remain necessary and effective and are not overly burdensome; and (c) convene a work group to make recommendations by October 1, 2026 on the required guidelines.

The bill also requires the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation to convene a work group to develop recommendations related to planning for grid stability and reliability and energy affordability between certain cooperatives and generation and transmission services providers, system owners, and wholesale power providers; and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the State Corporation Commission and the General Assembly by October 1, 2026.

As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation.

Effective Date(s): July 1, 2026

Amendment Necessary: Budget, Item 475
 Technical, see *Technical Note* below
 None

Fiscal Summary

TYPE OF IMPACT	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
REVENUE					
<i>General (XXXX)</i>					
<i>Nongeneral (XXXX)</i>					
EXPENDITURES					
<i>General (XXXX)</i>					
<i>Nongeneral (0208)</i>	\$523,000	\$314,000	\$314,000	\$314,000	\$314,000
CHANGE IN FTE					
<i>General (XXXX)</i>					
<i>Nongeneral (0208)</i>	3				

Fiscal Analysis

Revenue

When considered individually, the SCC can meet this bill's requirements with the adjustments identified in the fiscal impact summary table and within its existing funding authority. If enacted, the SCC will review operational and fiscal impacts of this legislation along with other enacted 2026 electric utility bills to determine implementation.

Expenditures

A consultant facilitator for the workgroup will be needed. Estimated consultant cost is \$200,000.

Change in FTE

Three FTE will be required to meet the requirements in the bill. Two-FTE in the Division of Public Utility Regulation (PUR) and one-FTE in the Office of General Counsel. Estimated FTE cost with IT equipment and office space FY27 is \$323,000 and for FY28 forward is \$314,000.

Other Comments

Requirements in this bill add to the SCC analysis of Integrated Resource Plans (IRP) increasing SCC workload. Requires the Commission to (a) establish guidelines that ensure that utilities develop comprehensive integrated resource plans and provide meaningful public engagement and maximum transparency during the planning process; (b) conduct a proceeding by July 1, 2027, and at least once every five years thereafter, to identify and review each of its existing orders relevant to integrated resource plans to determine if such orders remain necessary and effective and are not overly burdensome; and (c) to convene a work group to make recommendations on the required guidelines no later than October 2026.

Technical Note

None.