

BULLETIN 19-16

**Legislative Committee on Energy
(NRS 218E.805)**



Legislative Counsel Bureau

DECEMBER 2018

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.805

Members

Senator Kelvin D. Atkinson, Chair
Assemblyman Chris Brooks, Vice Chair
Senator James A. Settelmeyer
Senator Patricia (Pat) Spearman
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles

Staff Contacts

Research Division:

Marji Paslov Thomas, Senior Principal Policy Analyst
Maria Aguayo, Research Policy Assistant
(775) 684-6825

Legal Division:

Bryan Fernley, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel
(775) 684-6830

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Nevada Revised Statutes

NRS 218E.805 Creation of Legislative Committee on Energy; membership; budget; officers; terms; vacancies.

1. The Legislative Committee on Energy, consisting of six legislative members, is hereby created. The membership of the Committee consists of:

(a) Three members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, at least one of whom must be a member of the minority political party.

(b) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, at least one of whom must be a member of the minority political party.

2. The Legislative Commission shall review and approve the budget and work program for the Committee and any changes to the budget or work program.

3. The Legislative Commission shall select the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee from among the members of the Committee. Each Chair and Vice Chair holds office for a term of 2 years commencing on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. The office of Chair of the Committee must alternate each biennium between the Houses. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair or Vice Chair, the vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original selection for the remainder of the unexpired term.

4. A member of the Committee who is not a candidate for reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues to serve after the general election until the next regular or special session convenes.

5. A vacancy on the Committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(Added to NRS by [2013, 3343](#))

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legislative Committee on Energy is a permanent committee of the Nevada Legislature whose authorization and duties are set forth in [Chapter 218E](#) of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS). In 2013, the Legislature created the Committee to evaluate, review, and comment upon matters related to energy policy within Nevada and make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the manner in which energy policy may be implemented or improved.

The primary responsibilities of the Committee are established pursuant to [NRS 218E.815](#) and include the following:

- Policies, plans, or programs relating to the production, consumption, or use of energy in Nevada;
- Legislative measures regarding energy policy;
- Progress made to satisfy the goals and objectives of [Senate Bill 123](#) (2013);
- The effect of any policy, plan, program, or legislation on rates or ratepayers, economic development, environment, purchase of capacity, construction or acquisition of facilities for the generation of electricity, or the development of a market in Nevada for electricity generated from renewable energy;
- Any contracts or requests for proposals relating to the purchase of capacity;
- Infrastructure and transmission requirements of any policy, plan, program, or legislation; and
- Any other matter or topics that, in the determination of the Committee, affect energy policy in this state.

The Committee held three meetings during the [2017–2018 Interim](#). The Committee heard formal presentations and expert and public testimony on a broad range of topics involving energy.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee did not make any recommendations or propose any legislation for consideration by the 2019 Legislature.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Legislative Committee on Energy is an ongoing statutory committee of the Legislature whose authorization and duties are set forth in [NRS 218E.815](#). The Committee also monitors energy policy initiatives and the implementation of key legislation.

More information about the Committee's activities—including minutes, recordings of meetings, and copies of presentations and other exhibits—may be accessed on the Legislature's website for the [2017–2018 Interim](#).

II. BACKGROUND

Last interim, the Committee requested the drafting of one bill to discontinue the Solar Thermal Systems Demonstration Program (BDR 58–338, [Senate Bill 435](#)). The measure was heard by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy in March 2017. However, no action was taken by the Committee and no further action was allowed pursuant to Joint Standing Rule 14.3.1.

For information on activities during the past interims, earlier bulletins of the Committee are available at the Research Library in Carson City, Nevada, or online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/Interim/index.html>.

III. DISCUSSION OF TESTIMONY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee held three meetings during the 2017–2018 Interim.

At the Committee's first meeting on January 10, 2018, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) reported on its implementation of measures enacted during the 2017 Legislative Session, as well as [Senate Bill 123](#) of the 2013 Session. Proponents of the [Energy Choice Initiative](#) (Ballot Question 3 of the 2016 General Election) briefed the members on the status of the initiative and potential outcomes should it pass a vote of the people during the 2018 General Election. Finally, a representative of the Governor's Committee on Energy Choice (established pursuant to [Executive Order 2017-03](#)) reviewed its charge and summarized its activities.

At its meeting on April 18, 2018, [NV Energy](#) and the [Southern Nevada Water Authority](#) provided the Committee with an overview of wholesale energy markets in Nevada. The California Independent System Operator gave a [briefing](#) on the California Legislature's [Assembly Bill 813](#) (2017), which proposes to transition the state's electric grid to a multistate regional transmission system organization. Staff of the PUCN presented information concerning the process eligible utility customers use to discontinue services from NV Energy and purchase electricity from another provider ([Chapter 704B](#) of NRS). They also reported on the status of the agency's investigation of issues of public importance regarding the pending Energy Choice Initiative and possible restructuring of Nevada's energy industry, as directed by the Governor's Committee on Energy Choice.

At its final meeting on June 27, 2018, the Committee heard presentations on: (1) [community solar policies](#) from Vote Solar; (2) the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) from energy policy consultant [Rebecca Wagner](#) and [NV Energy](#); (3) the implementation of [Assembly Bill 405](#) (2017) and the status of net metering rates from [NV Energy](#); (4) recommendations concerning community solar and the RPS from the [Governor's Committee on Energy Choice](#); and (5) the activities and additional recommendations of the [Governor's Committee on Energy Choice](#).

IV. SUGGESTED LEGISLATION

The Committee did not propose any legislation to be considered by the 2019 Legislature.