



SB-1174 Electricity: eligible renewable energy or energy storage resources: transmission and interconnection. (2021-2022)

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Senate Bill No. 1174

CHAPTER 229

An act to amend Sections 399.13, 454.52, and 913.4 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to electricity.

[Approved by Governor September 02, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State September 02, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1174, Hertzberg. Electricity: eligible renewable energy or energy storage resources: transmission and interconnection.

(1) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has exclusive jurisdiction over the transmission of electricity in interstate commerce, over the sale of electricity at wholesale in interstate commerce, and over all facilities for the transmission or sale of electricity in interstate commerce.

Existing law vests the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. The California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program requires the PUC to establish a renewables portfolio standard requiring all retail sellers, including electrical corporations, electric service providers, and community choice aggregators, to procure a minimum quantity of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources so that the total kilowatthours of those products sold to their retail end-use customers achieves 25% of retail sales by December 31, 2016, 33% by December 31, 2020, 44% by December 31, 2024, 52% by December 31, 2027, and 60% by December 31, 2030. Existing law requires an electrical corporation that owns electrical transmission facilities to annually prepare, as part of a specified FERC process, a report identifying any electrical transmission facility, upgrade, or enhancement that is reasonably necessary to achieve the procurement requirements of the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program and to submit that report to the PUC.

This bill would require each electrical corporation that owns electrical transmission facilities to annually prepare, and submit to the PUC, concurrently with each electrical corporation's annual renewable energy procurement plan, a report on any changes to previously reported in-service dates of transmission and interconnection facilities necessary to provide transmission deliverability to eligible renewable energy resources or energy storage resources that have executed interconnection agreements, and to identify the reason for any changes to the status of in-service dates.

(2) Existing law requires the PUC to annually report specified information to the Legislature in order to evaluate the progress of the state's electrical corporations in complying with the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program.

This bill would require that annual report to also include a systemwide assessment of delays to interconnection or transmission approvals for eligible renewable energy resources or energy storage resources, based on those annual reports.

(3) Existing law requires the PUC to adopt a process for each electrical corporation, electric service provider, or community choice aggregator to file an integrated resource plan and a schedule for periodic updates to the plan, and to ensure that those entities take specified actions, including meeting certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and procuring at least 60% eligible renewable energy resources by December 31, 2030, as specified. For those purposes, existing law requires the PUC to

consider the role of existing renewable generation, grid operational efficiencies, energy storage, and distributed energy resources in helping to ensure those entities meet energy and reliability needs during peak demand, while reducing the need for new electricity generation resources and new transmission resources in achieving the state's energy goals at the least cost to ratepayers.

This bill would additionally require the PUC, for those purposes, to also consider the role of transmission.

(4) Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or any order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the PUC is a crime.

Because the provisions of this bill would be a part of the act and a violation of a PUC action implementing its requirements would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 399.13 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

399.13. (a) (1) The commission shall direct each electrical corporation to annually prepare a renewable energy procurement plan that includes the elements specified in paragraph (6), to satisfy its obligations under the renewables portfolio standard. To the extent feasible, this procurement plan shall be proposed, reviewed, and adopted by the commission as part of, and pursuant to, a general procurement plan process. The commission shall require each electrical corporation to review and update its renewable energy procurement plan as it determines to be necessary. The commission shall require all other retail sellers to prepare and submit renewable energy procurement plans that address the requirements identified in paragraph (6).

(2) (A) Every electrical corporation that owns electrical transmission facilities shall annually prepare, as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order 890 process, and submit to the commission, a report identifying any electrical transmission facility, upgrade, or enhancement that is reasonably necessary to achieve the renewables portfolio standard procurement requirements of this article. Each report shall look forward at least five years and, to ensure that adequate investments are made in a timely manner, shall include a preliminary schedule when an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity will be made, pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 1001), for any electrical transmission facility identified as being reasonably necessary to achieve the renewable energy resources procurement requirements of this article. Each electrical corporation that owns electrical transmission facilities shall ensure that project-specific interconnection studies are completed in a timely manner.

(B) Each electrical corporation that owns electrical transmission facilities shall annually prepare, and submit to the commission, a report on any changes to previously reported in-service dates of transmission and interconnection facilities necessary to provide transmission deliverability to eligible renewable energy resources or energy storage resources that have executed interconnection agreements. The report shall be provided concurrently with each electrical corporation's annual renewable energy procurement plan and identify the reason for any changes to the status of in-service dates.

(3) The commission shall direct each retail seller to prepare and submit an annual compliance report that includes all of the following:

(A) The current status and progress made during the prior year toward procurement of eligible renewable energy resources as a percentage of retail sales, including, if applicable, the status of any necessary siting and permitting approvals from federal, state, and local agencies for those eligible renewable energy resources procured by the retail seller, and the current status of compliance with the portfolio content requirements of subdivision (c) of Section 399.16, including procurement of eligible renewable energy resources located outside the state and within the WECC and unbundled renewable energy credits.

(B) If the retail seller is an electrical corporation, the current status and progress made during the prior year toward construction of, and upgrades to, transmission and distribution facilities and other electrical system components it owns to interconnect eligible renewable energy resources and to supply the electricity generated by those resources to load, including the status of planning, siting, and permitting transmission facilities by federal, state, and local agencies.

(C) Recommendations to remove impediments to making progress toward achieving the renewable energy resources procurement requirements established pursuant to this article.

(4) The commission shall review each annual compliance report filed by a retail seller. The commission shall notify a retail seller if the commission has determined, based upon its review, that the retail seller may be at risk of not satisfying the renewable energy procurement requirements for the then-current or a future compliance period and shall provide recommendations in that circumstance regarding satisfying those requirements.

(5) The commission shall adopt, by rulemaking, all of the following:

(A) A process that provides criteria for the rank ordering and selection of least-cost and best-fit eligible renewable energy resources to comply with the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program obligations on a total cost and best-fit basis. This process shall take into account all of the following:

(i) Estimates of indirect costs associated with needed transmission investments.

(ii) The cost impact of procuring the eligible renewable energy resources on the electrical corporation's electricity portfolio.

(iii) The viability of the project to construct and reliably operate the eligible renewable energy resource, including the developer's experience, the feasibility of the technology used to generate electricity, and the risk that the facility will not be built, or that construction will be delayed, with the result that electricity will not be supplied as required by the contract.

(iv) Workforce recruitment, training, and retention efforts, including the employment growth associated with the construction and operation of eligible renewable energy resources and goals for recruitment and training of women, minorities, and disabled veterans.

(v) (I) Estimates of electrical corporation expenses resulting from integrating and operating eligible renewable energy resources, including, but not limited to, any additional wholesale energy and capacity costs associated with integrating each eligible renewable resource.

(II) No later than December 31, 2015, the commission shall approve a methodology for determining the integration costs described in subclause (I).

(vi) Consideration of any statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit established pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code).

(vii) Consideration of capacity and system reliability of the eligible renewable energy resource to ensure grid reliability.

(B) Rules permitting retail sellers to accumulate, beginning January 1, 2011, excess procurement in one compliance period to be applied to any subsequent compliance period. The rules shall apply equally to all retail sellers. In determining the quantity of excess procurement for the applicable compliance period, the commission shall retain the rules adopted by the commission and in effect as of January 1, 2015, for the compliance period specified in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 399.15. For any subsequent compliance period, the rules shall allow the following:

(i) For electricity products meeting the portfolio content requirements of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 399.16, contracts of any duration may count as excess procurement.

(ii) Electricity products meeting the portfolio content requirements of paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 399.16 shall not be counted as excess procurement. Contracts of any duration for electricity products meeting the portfolio content requirements of paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 399.16 that are credited towards a compliance period shall not be deducted from a retail seller's procurement for purposes of calculating excess procurement.

(iii) If a retail seller notifies the commission that it will comply with the provisions of subdivision (b) for the compliance period beginning January 1, 2017, the provisions of clauses (i) and (ii) shall take effect for that retail seller for that compliance period.

(C) Standard terms and conditions to be used by all electrical corporations in contracting for eligible renewable energy resources, including performance requirements for renewable generators. A contract for the purchase of electricity generated by an eligible renewable energy resource, at a minimum, shall include the renewable energy credits associated with all electricity generation specified under the contract. The standard terms and conditions shall include the requirement that, no later than six months after the commission's approval of an electricity purchase agreement entered into pursuant to this article, the following information about the agreement shall be disclosed by the commission: party names, resource type, project location, and project capacity.

(D) An appropriate minimum margin of procurement above the minimum procurement level necessary to comply with the renewables portfolio standard to mitigate the risk that renewable projects planned or under contract are delayed or canceled. This paragraph does not preclude an electrical corporation from voluntarily proposing a margin of procurement above the appropriate minimum margin established by the commission.

(6) Consistent with the goal of increasing California's reliance on eligible renewable energy resources, the renewable energy procurement plan shall include all of the following:

(A) An assessment of annual or multiyear portfolio supplies and demand to determine the optimal mix of eligible renewable energy resources with deliverability characteristics that may include peaking, dispatchable, baseload, firm, and as-available capacity.

(B) Potential compliance delays related to the conditions described in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 399.15.

(C) A bid solicitation setting forth the need for eligible renewable energy resources of each deliverability characteristic, required online dates, and locational preferences, if any.

(D) A status update on the development schedule of all eligible renewable energy resources currently under contract.

(E) Consideration of mechanisms for price adjustments associated with the costs of key components for eligible renewable energy resource projects with online dates more than 24 months after the date of contract execution.

(F) An assessment of the risk that an eligible renewable energy resource will not be built, or that construction will be delayed, with the result that electricity will not be delivered as required by the contract.

(7) In soliciting and procuring eligible renewable energy resources, each electrical corporation shall offer contracts of no less than 10 years duration, unless the commission approves of a contract of shorter duration.

(8) (A) In soliciting and procuring eligible renewable energy resources for California-based projects, each electrical corporation shall give preference to renewable energy projects that provide environmental and economic benefits to communities afflicted with poverty or high unemployment, or that suffer from high emission levels of toxic air contaminants, criteria air pollutants, and greenhouse gases.

(B) Subparagraph (A) applies to all procurement of eligible renewable energy resources for California-based projects, whether the procurement occurs through all-source requests for offers, eligible renewable resources only requests for offers, or other procurement mechanisms. This subparagraph is declaratory of existing law.

(9) In soliciting and procuring eligible renewable energy resources, each retail seller shall consider the best-fit attributes of resource types that ensure a balanced resource mix to maintain the reliability of the electrical grid.

(b) (1) A retail seller may enter into a combination of long- and short-term contracts for electricity and associated renewable energy credits. Beginning January 1, 2021, at least 65 percent of the procurement a retail seller counts toward the renewables portfolio standard requirement of each compliance period shall be from its contracts of 10 years or more in duration or in its ownership or ownership agreements for eligible renewable energy resources.

(2) In demonstrating compliance with paragraph (1), a retail seller may rely on contracts of 10 years or more in duration or ownership agreements entered into before January 1, 2019, directly by its direct access, as described in Section 365.1, nonprofit educational institution end-use customer for eligible renewable energy resources located in front of the customer meter to satisfy the portion of the compliance requirement attributable to the retail sales to that end-use customer. A retail seller shall furnish to the commission documentation deemed necessary by the commission to verify compliance with this paragraph.

(c) The commission shall review and accept, modify, or reject each electrical corporation's renewable energy resource procurement plan prior to the commencement of renewable energy procurement pursuant to this article by an electrical corporation. The commission shall assess adherence to the approved renewable energy resource procurement plans in determining compliance with the obligations of this article.

(d) Unless previously preapproved by the commission, an electrical corporation shall submit a contract for the generation of an eligible renewable energy resource to the commission for review and approval consistent with an approved renewable energy resource procurement plan. If the commission determines that the bid prices are elevated due to a lack of effective competition among the bidders, the commission shall direct the electrical corporation to renegotiate the contracts or conduct a new solicitation.

(e) If an electrical corporation fails to comply with a commission order adopting a renewable energy resource procurement plan, the commission shall exercise its authority to require compliance.

(f) (1) The commission may authorize a procurement entity to enter into contracts on behalf of customers of a retail seller for electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources to satisfy the retail seller's renewables portfolio standard procurement requirements. The commission shall not require any person or corporation to act as a procurement entity or require any party to purchase eligible renewable energy resources from a procurement entity.

(2) Subject to review and approval by the commission, the procurement entity shall be permitted to recover reasonable administrative and procurement costs through the retail rates of end-use customers that are served by the procurement entity and are directly benefiting from the procurement of eligible renewable energy resources.

(g) Procurement and administrative costs associated with contracts entered into by an electrical corporation for eligible renewable energy resources pursuant to this article and approved by the commission are reasonable and prudent and shall be recoverable in rates.

SEC. 2. Section 454.52 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

454.52. (a) (1) Beginning in 2017, and to be updated regularly thereafter, the commission shall adopt a process for each load-serving entity, as defined in Section 380, to file an integrated resource plan, and a schedule for periodic updates to the plan, and shall ensure that load-serving entities do all of the following:

(A) Meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets established by the State Air Resources Board, in coordination with the commission and the Energy Commission, for the electricity sector and each load-serving entity that reflect the electricity sector's percentage in achieving the economywide greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030.

(B) Procure at least 60 percent eligible renewable energy resources by December 31, 2030, consistent with Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Chapter 2.3.

(C) Enable each electrical corporation to fulfill its obligation to serve its customers at just and reasonable rates.

(D) Minimize impacts on ratepayers' bills.

(E) Ensure system and local reliability on both a near-term and long-term basis, including meeting the near-term and forecast long-term resource adequacy requirements of Section 380.

(F) Comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 399.13.

(G) Strengthen the diversity, sustainability, and resilience of the bulk transmission and distribution systems, and local communities.

(H) Enhance distribution systems and demand-side energy management.

(I) Minimize localized air pollutants and other greenhouse gas emissions, with early priority on disadvantaged communities identified pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) (A) The commission may authorize all source procurement for electrical corporations that includes various resource types including demand-side resources, supply side resources, and resources that may be either demand-side resources or supply side resources, taking into account the differing electrical corporations' geographic service areas, to ensure that each load-serving entity meets the goals set forth in paragraph (1).

(B) The commission may approve procurement of resource types that will reduce the overall emissions of greenhouse gases from the electricity sector and meet the other goals specified in paragraph (1), but due to the nature of the technology or fuel source may not compete favorably in price against other resources over the time period of the integrated resource plan.

(3) In furtherance of the requirements of paragraph (1), the commission shall consider the role of transmission, existing renewable generation, grid operational efficiencies, energy storage, and distributed energy resources, including energy efficiency, in helping to ensure each load-serving entity meets energy needs and reliability needs in hours to encompass the hour of peak demand of electricity, excluding demand met by variable renewable generation directly connected to a California balancing authority, as defined in Section 399.12, while reducing the need for new electricity generation resources and new transmission resources in achieving the state's energy goals at the least cost to ratepayers.

(b) (1) Each load-serving entity shall prepare and file an integrated resource plan consistent with paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) on a time schedule directed by the commission and subject to commission review.

(2) Each electrical corporation's plan shall follow Section 454.5.

(3) The plan of a community choice aggregator shall be submitted to its governing board for approval and provided to the commission for certification, consistent with paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 366.2, and shall achieve all of the following:

(A) Economic, reliability, environmental, security, and other benefits and performance characteristics that are consistent with the goals set forth in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(B) A diversified procurement portfolio consisting of both short-term and long-term electricity, electricity-related, and demand reduction products.

(C) The resource adequacy requirements established pursuant to Section 380.

(4) The plan of an electric service provider shall achieve the goals set forth in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) through a diversified procurement portfolio consisting of both short-term and long-term electricity, electricity-related, and demand reduction products.

(c) To the extent that additional procurement is authorized for the electrical corporation in the integrated resource plan or the procurement process authorized pursuant to Section 454.5, the commission shall ensure that the costs are allocated in a fair and equitable manner to all customers consistent with Section 454.51, that there is no cost shifting among customers of load-serving entities, and that community choice aggregators may self-provide renewable integration resources consistent with Section 454.51.

(d) To eliminate redundancy and increase efficiency, the process adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall incorporate, and not duplicate, any other planning processes of the commission.

(e) This section applies to an electrical cooperative, as defined in Section 2776, only if the electrical cooperative has an annual electrical demand exceeding 700 gigawatthours, as determined based on a three-year average commencing with January 1, 2013.

SEC. 3. Section 913.4 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

913.4. In order to evaluate the progress of the state's electrical corporations in complying with the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program (Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Chapter 2.3), the commission shall report to the Legislature no later than November 1 of each year on all of the following:

(a) The progress and status of procurement activities by each retail seller pursuant to the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program.

(b) For each electrical corporation, an implementation schedule to achieve the renewables portfolio standard procurement requirements, including all substantive actions that have been taken or will be taken to achieve the program procurement requirements.

(c) The projected ability of each electrical corporation to meet the renewables portfolio standard procurement requirements under the cost limitations in subdivisions (c) and (d) of Section 399.15 and any recommendations for revisions of those cost limitations.

(d) Any renewable energy procurement plan approved by the commission pursuant to Section 399.13, and a schedule and status report for all substantive procurement, transmission development, and other activities that the commission has approved to be undertaken by an electrical corporation to achieve the procurement requirements of the renewables portfolio standard.

(e) Any barriers to, and policy recommendations for, achieving the renewables portfolio standard pursuant to the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program.

(f) The efforts each electrical corporation is taking to recruit and train employees to ensure an adequately trained and available workforce, including the number of new employees hired by the electrical corporation for purposes of implementing the requirements of the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program, the goals adopted by the electrical corporation for increasing women, minority, and disabled veterans trained or hired for purposes of implementing the requirements of that program, and, to the extent information is available, the number of new employees hired and the number of women, minority, and disabled veterans trained or hired by persons or corporations owning or operating eligible renewable energy resources under contract with an electrical corporation. This subdivision does not provide the commission with authority to engage in or regulate, or expand its authority to include, workforce recruitment or training.

(g) A systemwide assessment of delays to interconnection or transmission approvals for eligible renewable energy resources or energy storage resources, based on the annual reports submitted to the commission by electrical corporations pursuant to Section 399.13.

SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.