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FIRST REPRINT

A.B. 315

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 315—ASSEMBLYWOMAN HARDY

MARCH 16, 2023

Referred to Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

SUMMARY—Establishes various provisions relating to geothermal energy. (BDR 58-947)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to energy; requiring the Director of the Office of Energy to coordinate with certain entities to recommend best practices for issuing a permit for geothermal energy; requiring the Office of Energy to conduct an interim study relating to geothermal resources; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 Existing law requires the Director of the Office of Energy to perform certain
- 2 duties relating to energy resources and energy conservation. (NRS 701.180)
- 3 **Section 1** of this bill requires the Director to coordinate with local governments and
- 4 representatives of the geothermal energy industry to recommend best practices for
- 5 issuing a permit for the use or development of geothermal energy to streamline the
- 6 process for such permits.
- 7 **Section 27** of this bill requires the Office of Energy to conduct a study during
- 8 the 2023-2024 interim concerning the development of geothermal resources in this
- 9 State and submit a report of its findings to the Director of the Legislative Counsel
- 10 Bureau for transmittal to the 83rd Session of the Legislature.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 701.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2 701.180 The Director shall:
- 3 1. Acquire and analyze information relating to energy and to
- 4 the supply, demand and conservation of its sources, including,
- 5 without limitation:



1 (a) Information relating to the Solar Energy Systems Incentive
2 Program created pursuant to NRS 701B.240 and the Wind Energy
3 Systems Demonstration Program created pursuant to 701B.580,
4 including, without limitation, information relating to:

5 (1) The development of distributed generation systems in this
6 State pursuant to participation in the Solar Energy Systems
7 Incentive Program;

8 (2) The use of carbon-based energy in residential and
9 commercial applications due to participation in the Programs; and

10 (3) The average cost of generation on a kilowatt-hour basis
11 for residential and commercial applications due to participation in
12 the Programs; and

13 (b) Information relating to any money distributed pursuant to
14 NRS 702.270.

15 2. Review and evaluate information which identifies trends and
16 permits forecasting of the energy available to the State. Such
17 forecasts must include estimates on:

18 (a) The level of demand for energy in the State for 5-, 10- and
19 20-year periods;

20 (b) The amount of energy available to meet each level of
21 demand;

22 (c) The probable implications of the forecast on the demand and
23 supply of energy; and

24 (d) The sources of renewable energy and other alternative
25 sources of energy which are available and their possible effects.

26 3. Study means of reducing wasteful, inefficient, unnecessary
27 or uneconomical uses of energy and encourage the maximum
28 utilization of existing sources of energy in the State.

29 4. Solicit and serve as the point of contact for grants and other
30 money from the Federal Government, including, without limitation,
31 any grants and other money available pursuant to any program
32 administered by the United States Department of Energy, and other
33 sources:

34 (a) To promote energy projects that enhance the economic
35 development of the State;

36 (b) To promote the use of renewable energy in this State;

37 (c) To promote the use of measures which conserve or reduce
38 the demand for energy or which result in more efficient use of
39 energy;

40 (d) To develop a comprehensive program for retrofitting public
41 buildings in this State with energy efficiency measures; and

42 (e) If the Director determines that it is feasible and cost-
43 effective, to enter into contracts with researchers from the Nevada
44 System of Higher Education for the design of energy efficiency and
45 retrofit projects to carry out the comprehensive program for



1 retrofitting public buildings in this State developed pursuant to
2 paragraph (d).

3 5. Coordinate the activities and programs of the Office of
4 Energy with the activities and programs of the Consumer's
5 Advocate and the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, and with
6 other federal, state and local officers and agencies that promote,
7 fund, administer or operate activities and programs related to the use
8 of renewable energy and the use of measures which conserve or
9 reduce the demand for energy or which result in more efficient use
10 of energy.

11 6. If requested to make a determination pursuant to NRS
12 111.239 or 278.0208, make the determination within 30 days after
13 receiving the request. If the Director needs additional information to
14 make the determination, the Director may request the information
15 from the person making the request for a determination. Within 15
16 days after receiving the additional information, the Director shall
17 make a determination on the request.

18 7. Cooperate with the Department of Wildlife in carrying out
19 the provisions of NRS 701.600 to 701.640, inclusive.

20 8. Upon request by a developer of an energy development
21 project or a local government in a county in which an energy
22 development project is proposed to be located, coordinate
23 discussions, not otherwise required by any existing regulatory
24 agency, with interested parties concerning any potential effect of the
25 energy development project.

26 9. *Coordinate with local governments and representatives of*
27 *the geothermal energy industry to recommend best practices for*
28 *issuing a permit for the use or development of geothermal energy*
29 *to streamline the process for such permits which must, without*
30 *limitation, take into account potential environmental impacts.*

31 10. Carry out all other directives concerning energy that are
32 prescribed by the Governor.

33 **Sec. 2.** (Deleted by amendment.)

34 **Sec. 3.** (Deleted by amendment.)

35 **Sec. 4.** (Deleted by amendment.)

36 **Sec. 5.** (Deleted by amendment.)

37 **Sec. 6.** (Deleted by amendment.)

38 **Sec. 7.** (Deleted by amendment.)

39 **Sec. 8.** (Deleted by amendment.)

40 **Sec. 9.** (Deleted by amendment.)

41 **Sec. 10.** (Deleted by amendment.)

42 **Sec. 11.** (Deleted by amendment.)

43 **Sec. 12.** (Deleted by amendment.)

44 **Sec. 13.** (Deleted by amendment.)

45 **Sec. 14.** (Deleted by amendment.)



1 **Sec. 15.** (Deleted by amendment.)

2 **Sec. 16.** (Deleted by amendment.)

3 **Sec. 17.** (Deleted by amendment.)

4 **Sec. 18.** (Deleted by amendment.)

5 **Sec. 19.** (Deleted by amendment.)

6 **Sec. 20.** (Deleted by amendment.)

7 **Sec. 21.** (Deleted by amendment.)

8 **Sec. 22.** (Deleted by amendment.)

9 **Sec. 23.** (Deleted by amendment.)

10 **Sec. 24.** (Deleted by amendment.)

11 **Sec. 25.** (Deleted by amendment.)

12 **Sec. 26.** (Deleted by amendment.)

13 **Sec. 27.** 1. During the 2023-2024 legislative interim, the
14 Office of Energy shall conduct a study of the feasibility and
15 application of and opportunities for current and new technologies
16 for the development of geothermal resources in this State to be used
17 to create a model framework for the development of geothermal
18 energy in this State, including, without limitation, the exploration,
19 drilling and utilization of geothermal resources. The study must
20 include, without limitation:

21 (a) An analysis of the applicability of geothermal technologies
22 in this State;

23 (b) An analysis of the scalability of geothermal technologies to
24 the production of electricity, including, without limitation, the direct
25 use of such technologies;

26 (c) An analysis of potential locations to develop geothermal
27 resources in this State and the geologic conditions of such locations,
28 including, without limitation, the technology transfer, development,
29 acceleration and scale necessary to develop geothermal resources in
30 such locations;

31 (d) An evaluation of the environment in this State for start-up
32 businesses and innovations related to geothermal energy;

33 (e) A review of the environmental, economic, policy, regulatory
34 and legal issues related to expanding the use of geothermal energy
35 in this State, including, without limitation, permitting, interagency
36 coordination, economic development and the creation of new jobs;
37 and

38 (f) An analysis of the potential workforce development related
39 to the development of geothermal energy in this State.

40 2. In conducting the study required by subsection 1, the Office
41 of Energy shall consult with interested stakeholders, including,
42 without limitation, local governments, tribal governments,
43 environmental groups, labor organizations, economic development
44 authorities, water authorities, private industries, advanced
45 technology industries and global interests.



1 3. On or before December 31, 2024, the Office of Energy shall
2 submit a report of its findings, including, without limitation, any
3 recommendations for legislation, to the Director of the Legislative
4 Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 83rd Session of the
5 Legislature.
6 **Sec. 28.** This act becomes effective upon passage and
7 approval.

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