

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9801

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. BALDERSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Guaranteeing Reli-  
5 ability through the Interconnection of Dispatchable Power  
6 Act” or the “GRID Power Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

1           (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
2 means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3           (2) DISPATCHABLE POWER.—The term  
4 “dispatchable power” means an electric energy gen-  
5 eration resource capable of quickly ramping up or  
6 shutting down in time intervals necessary to ensure  
7 grid reliability.

8           (3) GRID RELIABILITY.—The term “grid reli-  
9 ability” means the ability of the electric grid to de-  
10 liver electricity in the quantity and with the quality  
11 demanded by users, taking into account the bulk-  
12 power system’s capacity to withstand and rapidly re-  
13 cover from unexpected disturbances resulting from  
14 generation supply and demand.

15           (4) GRID RESILIENCE.—The term “grid resil-  
16 ience” means the ability of the electric grid to adapt  
17 to changing physical conditions and withstand and  
18 rapidly recover from disturbances, including natural  
19 disasters, cyber-attacks, and other unforeseen  
20 events.

21           (5) INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR.—The  
22 term “Independent System Operator” has the mean-  
23 ing given the term in section 3 of the Federal Power  
24 Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

1           (6) REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—  
2           The term “Regional Transmission Organization”  
3           has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the  
4           Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

5           (7) RESOURCE ADEQUACY.—The term “re-  
6           source adequacy” means the ability of the electric  
7           grid to meet the aggregate demand for electric en-  
8           ergy of users at all times, accounting for scheduled  
9           and unscheduled outages of bulk-power system com-  
10          ponents.

11          (8) TRANSMISSION PROVIDER.—The term  
12          “transmission provider” means a public utility (as  
13          defined in section 201(e) of the Federal Power Act  
14          (16 U.S.C. 824(e))) that owns, operates, or controls  
15          1 or more transmission facilities and includes Inde-  
16          pendent System Operators and Regional Trans-  
17          mission Organizations.

18 **SEC. 3. RULEMAKING TO IMPROVE INTERCONNECTION**  
19                                   **QUEUE FLEXIBILITY.**

20          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
21          date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall ini-  
22          tiate a rulemaking—

23                  (1) to address the inefficiencies and ineffective-  
24                  ness of existing procedures for processing inter-  
25                  connection requests to ensure that new dispatchable

1 power projects that improve grid reliability and re-  
2 source adequacy can interconnect to the electric grid  
3 quickly, cost-effectively, and reliably; and

4 (2) to amend the pro forma Large Generator  
5 Interconnection Procedures and, as appropriate, the  
6 pro forma Large Generator Interconnection Agree-  
7 ment, promulgated pursuant to section 35.28(f) of  
8 title 18, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor  
9 regulations)—

10 (A) to authorize transmission providers to  
11 submit proposals to the Commission to adjust  
12 the interconnection queue of the transmission  
13 provider to prioritize new dispatchable power  
14 projects that will improve grid reliability and  
15 resource adequacy by assigning such projects  
16 higher positions in the interconnection queue;  
17 and

18 (B) to require transmission providers to—

19 (i) provide in any proposal described  
20 in subparagraph (A)—

21 (I) a demonstration of need for  
22 prioritization of the relevant projects;  
23 and

1 (II) a description of how the  
2 prioritization of such projects will im-  
3 prove grid reliability or grid resilience;

4 (ii) provide a process for public com-  
5 ment and stakeholder engagement before  
6 such a proposal is submitted to the Com-  
7 mission; and

8 (iii) provide regular reporting to the  
9 Commission on the state of grid reliability  
10 and grid resilience, including reporting on  
11 any actions taken pursuant to this Act.

12 (b) COMMISSION APPROVAL.—The Commission shall  
13 review and approve or deny proposals submitted pursuant  
14 to subsection (a)(2) within 60 days to ensure timely re-  
15 sponses to grid reliability concerns.

16 (c) DEADLINE FOR FINAL RULE.—Not later than  
17 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-  
18 mission shall issue final regulations to complete the rule-  
19 making initiated under subsection (a).

20 (d) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Commission shall re-  
21 view and update the regulations issued under this section,  
22 if necessary, every 5 years to ensure such regulations re-  
23 main effective and relevant to evolving grid reliability and  
24 grid resilience challenges.

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