Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 274

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-18

AN ACT concerning energy; relating to the state corporation commission; requiring the commission to engage a consulting firm to conduct a technical and legal feasibility study on new nuclear energy generation in this state; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for the state corporation commission.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) (1) To provide information that may assist future legislative and regulatory efforts to craft forward-looking nuclear energy policy, the state corporation commission shall engage an outside consulting firm to conduct a technical and legal feasibility study regarding the promotion of nuclear energy generation in this state. The commission shall choose a consulting firm that:

(A) Is well-established in the nuclear industry and has been in existence for more than 35 years;

(B) currently has or has had at least 90% of the existing nuclear operators in the United States as a customer within the preceding 10 years;

(C) has earned 50% of the firm's revenue from nuclear licensing over the preceding 20 years; and

(D) is staffed by a licensed attorney who has experience in assisting entities with submitting and obtaining regulatory licenses, certifications and approvals for new reactor designs pursuant to 10 C.F.R. part 52.

(2) In addition to the foregoing requirements, if competent to perform such services as defined in K.S.A. 73-201(a)(2), and amendments thereto, the commission shall give preference to a consulting firm that is managed by and has at least 40% of the firm's assets owned by one or more individuals who are military veterans and whose military service included nuclear operating experiences.

(3) The provisions of K.S.A. 75-3739 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall not apply to any contract established pursuant to this section.

(b) The feasibility study conducted by such firm shall consider the following:

(1) The advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy generation in this state, including, but not limited to, the economic and environmental impacts;

(2) ways to maximize the use of workers who reside in this state and

products made in this state in the construction of nuclear energy generation facilities;

(3) evaluations, conclusions and recommendations on the following:

(A) Design characteristics and evaluation, including specific recommendations of optimal designs based on site characteristics and possible industrial uses;

(B) environmental and ecological impacts;

(C) land and siting criteria, including specific areas that are best suited for new nuclear generation based on the land and siting criteria;

(D) safety criteria;

(E) engineering and cost-related criteria; and

(F) small modular nuclear reactor and microreactor capability;

(4) socioeconomic assessment and impact analysis, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) Workforce education, training and development;

(B) local and state tax base;

(C) supply chains; and

(D) permanent and temporary job creation;

(5) the timeline for development, including areas of potential acceleration or efficiencies and leveraging existing facilities within this state;

(6) additional efficiencies and other benefits that may be gained by coordinating with other advanced, clean energy technologies, including, but not limited to, hydrogen, direct air capture of carbon dioxide and energy storage;

(7) literature review of studies that have assessed the potential impact of nuclear energy generation in supporting an energy transition; and

(8) assessment and recommendation of current and future policies that may be needed to support or accelerate the adoption of nuclear energy generation or may improve its cost-effectiveness, including a survey of federal programs and other methods that could financially assist a nuclear project in this state.

(c) The state corporation commission, public utilities, cooperatives and municipally owned utilities shall cooperate in providing information relevant to the feasibility study, as needed, subject to notifications to stakeholders and reasonable safeguards to protect confidential information. Any record provided to the consulting firm pursuant to this section shall be confidential and not subject to the provisions of the Kansas open records act, K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and amendments thereto. The provisions of this subsection shall expire on July 1, 2030, unless the legislature reviews and reenacts this provision pursuant to K.S.A. 45-229, and amendments thereto, prior to July 1, 2030.

(d) The feasibility study shall be prepared and submitted to the

legislature, the governor, the senate committee on utilities and the house of representatives committee on energy, utilities and telecommunications on or before April 1, 2026.

Sec. 2.

KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

(a) There is hereby appropriated for the above agency from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

Nuclear feasibility study.....$375,000

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.