

House Energy Committee

09/30/2026, 10:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

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The committee met to consider several bills.

[HB 2755](#), Prime Sponsor: [Rep. Chris Pielli \(D-Chester\)](#) – (PN 3856) Amends Title 66 (Public Utilities), in restructuring of electric utility industry, providing for membership in regional transmission organization. Requires an electric distribution company, organization or person owning or operating a facility for the jurisdictional transmission of electricity located in this commonwealth to participate as a member of a regional transmission organization. Defines “regional transmission organization.” Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as committed**, with [Rep. Dallas Kephart](#) (R-Clearfield), [Rep. Eric Nelson](#) (R-Westmoreland) and [Rep. Kathy Rapp](#) (R-Warren) voting in the negative.

Rep. Pielli said it was “important” for lawmakers to investigate the problem of high electricity prices. He noted that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) gives transmission owners an extra profit bonus of 0.5% for joining Pennsylvania’s regional grid. He argued that utilities will likely join the grid regardless and that the bonus will be paid for by ratepayers. He added that several states, including neighboring states such as Ohio, Maryland and New Jersey, have passed similar legislation. He cited a figure claiming that New Jersey ratepayers saved \$20 million by enacting a similar proposal.

Rep. Kephart asked whether a Pennsylvania-New Jersey- Maryland Interconnection (PJM) study commissioned by the legislature had been finished yet. [Chair Elizabeth Fiedler](#) (D-Philadelphia) said the committee has yet to see the results of the study. Rep. Kephart asked about the economic ramifications of Ohio passing a similar bill. Chair Fiedler said the Ohio situation was “relatively new” and the results have not been published. She said she did not want to speculate how much Pennsylvanians would save but referenced the \$20 million New Jersey figure as a possible outcome. Rep. Kephart said he was currently a “soft no” on the bill. He suggested waiting on the results of the PJM study before enacting the study proposed in the bill.

[Minority Chair Martin Causer](#) (R-McKean) agreed with Rep. Kephart’s comments on waiting for the results of the PJM study. “It’s interesting to me that the governor and others have been blaming our energy issues on PJM for quite some time, including threatening to remove us from PJM,” he said. “It’s ironic now that we’re considering a bill that mandates participation in PJM.” He noted that he had concerns about the bill but still encouraged his colleagues to support the bill.

Rep. Nelson argued that Pennsylvania does not need PJM and that “PJM needs us.” He noted that the \$20 million saved by New Jersey roughly results in \$2 in savings per person. He urged the committee to be mindful of the consequences of premature closure of energy devastation, which he argued has a “devastating effect” on energy costs. “I don’t know that it’s our best strategic advantage to mandate participation in an organization that someday we may choose to step away from,” he said.

Chair Fiedler urged the committee to support the bill, adding that she would be open to discussions on how to improve it. She added that the results of the PJM study are not

expected until March 2027, arguing that the timeframe was too long for Pennsylvania ratepayers to wait through with winter approaching.

[HB 2775](#), Prime Sponsor: [Rep. Kyle Donahue \(D-Lackawanna\)](#) – (PN 3883) Amends the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in zoning, adding a subsection to further provide for ordinance provisions. Defines “electric service” and “large load facility.” Allows a zoning ordinance to permit a large load facility as a use permitted by right, conditional use or special exception in any zoning district of the municipality only if, as a condition of approval, the applicant provides the appropriate municipal officer, agency or body with documentation evidencing that the applicant has filed an application for electric service for the large load facility with the public utility or other provider from which the applicant proposes to obtain electric service and has paid all fees and costs imposed by the public utility or other provider in connection with the application under subclause (i). Specifies that the added subsection shall apply to an application for development filed on or after the effective date of this clause. Effective in 30 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A04366](#), by Williams, requires data center applicants to bring their own energy production or retrofit a retired generation facility. The amendment **failed**, along a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

[A04270](#), by Fiedler, amends the definition of “data centers” to align with other legislation. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Speaking on his amendment, [Rep. Craig Williams](#) (R-Delaware) noted that a large reason for the spike in electricity prices was due to data center speculation and forecasts. He said that Pennsylvania is forced to pay the same capacity prices as Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey, which cannot currently meet their energy needs. “We could build zero data centers in Pennsylvania,” he said. “We still pay the costs for data centers being built in the other 12 states and the District of Columbia.” He noted that the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Ratepayer Protection Act, almost unanimously, which currently sits in the U.S. Senate. He argued his amendment would put additional costs on data centers instead of ratepayers, adding that his proposal shares similarities to Gov. Josh Shapiro’s own plan on data centers.

Rep. Donahue said his bill is “narrow,” simply requiring interconnection applications for local zoning consideration. He said the amendment was not agreed to and urged the committee to vote against it. Rep. Williams responded by arguing that his amendment is relevant to the bill because it requires data centers to provide their own generation at the local level.

Chair Causer strongly supported Rep. Williams’ amendment, arguing that “bring your own power” was the answer to rising costs.

Chair Fiedler said she respected Rep. Donahue’s desire to keep the bill narrow. She also shared concerns that the amendment would not allow facilities to make use of all energy technologies, including renewable energy options.

On his bill, Rep. Donahue said municipalities are “overwhelmed” with data center applications. He added that some applications are “purely speculative” while some are serious. “With this bill, if you’re a data center developer, you need to apply for electric service and pay for any fees associated with that application before you seek zoning

approval,” he said. “By weeding out the purely speculative projects, this bill helps reduce the burden that many municipal officials are feeling.”

Chair Causer said he would support the bill but felt that it needed further amendments, citing concerns from the Township Supervisors Association.

[HB 2828](#), Prime Sponsor: [Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler \(D-Philadelphia\)](#) – (PN 3926) The Large Computational Load Customer and Consumer Protection Act provides for tariffs for large computational load customers and for emergency load control procedures during regional resource adequacy shortfalls and imposes duties on the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Provides definitions. Prohibits incremental costs attributable to a large computational load customer from being recovered from other customer classes. Requires each electric distribution company operating in the commonwealth to file a large computational load customer tariff within 90 days and requires the commission to approve or modify the tariff within 120 days after the public process. Requires the tariff to include a service agreement term of at least 15 years, a load ramp period of up to five years, a minimum monthly billing demand of at least 80% of contract capacity, demand charges, minimum monthly bills and full assignment of distribution and transmission upgrade costs to the customer. Requires a large computational load customer to demonstrate site control and project readiness before entering a service agreement. Allows certain contract capacity reductions beginning five years after service commencement with at least 48 months’ written notice, capped at 10% if capacity is not reassigned and 25% if fully reassigned. Requires payment of an exit fee, or two times the exit fee without 48 months’ notice, for termination or excess capacity reduction. Requires collateral equal to 50% of the minimum monthly bill multiplied by the number of months remaining in the service agreement term. Requires unrecovered tariff costs from bankruptcy, insolvency, default, departure, dissolution or similar events to be barred from recovery from other customer classes. Requires filings and procedures for reliability backstop auction obligations and Interim Resource Adequacy Service implementation no later than June 1, 2028, including cost allocation to large computational load customers, default reallocations, mandatory interruptible tariffs and related payment, crediting, billing and enforcement mechanisms. Prohibits a default service provider from providing default service to a large computational load customer unless the customer gives at least 180 days’ notice. Requires an electric distribution company with a large computational load interconnection request to update emergency load control procedures, curtail large computational load customers before any other industrial, commercial or residential customer during a load emergency and prohibit any exemption from emergency curtailment standards. Requires the updates to be filed within 60 days, approved or modified within 120 days and in place before June 1, 2027. Requires annual reporting to the commission on large computational load customer interconnection requests and related registry information. Grants the commission general administrative authority to interpret and implement the act by order or regulation. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A04337](#), by Fiedler, requires data centers to report backup generation technologies to the Public Utility Commission and meet emission standards for backup generation. The amendment was **adopted**, with Republicans voting in the negative, except Rep. Williams.

Rep. Nelson expressed concern over the amendment's language regarding backup generators, noting that many of them already meet federal standards. Steve Petro, majority executive director, responded that the amendment gives backup generators "a little wiggle room" by giving them alternative requirements to meet besides federal ones.

Chair Causer argued that the amendment was not necessary due to backup power being used infrequently.

Chair Fiedler said the bill lowers costs for consumers by mandating that data centers take on the costs of infrastructure upgrades. She also noted that the bill requires data centers to cut back on energy usage during blackouts and brownouts before residents do.

Chair Causer said it was "crucial" that data centers provide their own power generation. He called Pennsylvania an "energy powerhouse," arguing that the commonwealth had the opportunity to produce more energy than it currently does. He said he would vote the bill out of committee but felt that it needed more work.

[HR 630](#), Prime Sponsor: [Rep. Christina Sappey \(D-Chester\)](#) – (PN 3916) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LFBC) to conduct a study on data center decommissioning in Pennsylvania and provide recommendations. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Sappey said her resolution directs LFBC to study aspects of data center decommissioning, which include but are not limited to environmental, fiscal and local government impacts to Pennsylvania communities. She said the study will provide the legislature with the necessary information to develop policies tailored to Pennsylvania's needs and ensure that Pennsylvania residents are protected.

Rep. Williams said he would like to see ratepayer impact included in the study. He warned that residents are likely to shoulder the cost for decommissioned data centers.

[HR 564](#), Prime Sponsor: [Rep. Robert Freeman \(D-Northampton\)](#) – (PN3595) Directs the Joint State Government Commission (JSGC) to conduct a study and issue a report on waste heat recovery. The resolution was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A04225](#), by Fiedler, expands the study to include other industries. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Freeman said data centers are expected to account for 12% of the nation's energy by 2028, with 40% of that usage going toward cooling systems. He noted that ratepayers near data centers have seen a sharp spike in utility bills since 2020. He said his resolution would direct JSGC to conduct a study and issue a report highlighting how waste heat can be captured and repurposed in Pennsylvania. He argued the report would highlight opportunities to redirect waste heat to the benefit of Pennsylvanians. "This resolution will lay the groundwork for an informed, data-driven policy that protects ratepayers, strengthens resilience and positions Pennsylvania as a leader in efficient infrastructure," he said.

[Rep. Mandy Steele](#) (D-Allegheny) said she supported the resolution and requested that the study be expedited to benefit Pennsylvanians as fast as possible.

Chair Causer voiced his support for the amendment and the resolution.

Rep. Nelson noted that several Pennsylvania government buildings, including certain correctional facilities, already use waste coal to heat their buildings. He said he supported the study but warned that its findings may align with technology that is already in use. Rep. Freeman acknowledged that the waste heat was already in use in many parts of the world.

but argued that the “beauty” of the study would be to highlight the importance of waste heat from a policy standpoint.

Rep. Kephart agreed with Rep. Steele that the study should be expedited. Rep. Freeman said the committee would need to have a discussion with JSGC to see how they can expedite the process.

[Rep. Jamie Barton](#) (R-Schuylkill) said he felt the resolution was a great opportunity to further utilize waste heat in the commonwealth.

Chair Fiedler said the study would help the commonwealth learn about the cost-saving benefits of waste heat and hoped that the commission would report back to the legislature with ways they can assist in utilizing it.