

REFERENCE TITLE: community choice energy study committee.

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SB 1522

Introduced by
Senators Sundareshan: Epstein, Gabaldón, Gonzales, Hernandez, Marsh,
Mendez, Miranda, Terán

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY STUDY COMMITTEE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Community choice energy study committee;
3 membership; duties; report; delayed repeal

4 A. The community choice energy study committee is established
5 consisting of the following members:

6 1. Two members of the senate who are members of the natural
7 resources, energy and water committee and who are of different political
8 parties. The president of the senate shall appoint these members and
9 designate one of these members as the cochairperson of the committee.

10 2. Two members of the house of representatives who are members of
11 the natural resources, energy and water committee and who are of different
12 political parties. The speaker of the house shall appoint these members
13 and designate one of these members as the cochairperson of the committee.

14 3. The director of the governor's resiliency office or the
15 director's designee.

16 4. The presidents of Arizona public service company and Tucson
17 electric power or the presidents' designees.

18 5. The president of the Salt River project or the president's
19 designee.

20 6. The presidents of two independent energy suppliers that are
21 currently active in Arizona public service company's buy through program
22 that allows qualifying corporations to access alternative wholesale
23 electricity suppliers or the presidents' designees. The president of the
24 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint these
25 members.

26 7. The executive director of the Arizona solar energy industry
27 association or the executive director's designee.

28 8. The presidents of Arizona State University, the University of
29 Arizona and Northern Arizona University or the presidents' designees.

30 9. Two executive directors of Arizona nonprofit advocacy
31 organizations, such as conservatives for environmental stewardship,
32 Arizonans for community choice or Arizona public interest research group,
33 or the executive directors' designees. The president of the senate and
34 the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint these members.

35 10. The executive director of the Arizona residential utility
36 consumer office or the executive director's designee.

37 B. Committee members are not eligible to receive compensation.

38 C. The committee shall:

39 1. Meet as often as the cochairpersons deem necessary.

40 2. Gather information regarding current community choice energy
41 organizational models in the ten states that have authorized community
42 choice energy through state legislation.

43 3. Review best practices for community choice energy implementation
44 and operations, potential rate savings for customers, potential revenue
45 streams and other community benefits for participating municipalities,

1 potential achievement of communities' energy goals more cost-effectively
2 and more rapidly than through their current utility, potential risks that
3 community choice energy programs might face that merit consideration,
4 potential impacts of extending municipalities' access to the wholesale
5 energy market, potential impacts on energy delivery systems and delivery
6 reliability and potential effects of community choice energy and regulated
7 wholesale competition on this state's investor-owned utilities, energy
8 technologies innovation, development of smart cities and local and
9 statewide economic development.

10 4. Ascertain the feasibility and the potential legal, regulatory,
11 economic and environmental impacts of community choice energy in this
12 state.

13 5. Accept testimony and documentation from stakeholders,
14 independent energy and utility experts, community choice energy
15 administrators from other states and other interested parties.

16 6. Solicit input from a broad and inclusive range of stakeholders
17 and presenters that may include local governments, investor-owned
18 utilities, business groups, consumer advocates, environmental advocates,
19 independent power producers and transmission providers, experts in energy
20 reliability and resource adequacy planning, renewable energy developers,
21 expert consultants in energy project financing, experts in energy
22 efficiency and distributed energy resources, representatives of
23 operational community choice energy authorities and members of the general
24 public.

25 D. On or before November 15, 2023, the committee shall submit a
26 report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the president
27 of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives and shall
28 provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state.

29 E. The legislature shall staff committee meetings.

30 F. This section is repealed from and after September 30, 2024.