

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

April 22, 2026
Date

Committee on Transportation & Energy.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

SB26-142 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 3, line 24, strike "sense;" and substitute "sense;
2 and".
- 3 Page 3, strike line 25.
- 4 Page 4, strike lines 1 through 8.
- 5 Page 4, after line 8 insert:
6 "(f) Geothermal energy and thermal energy networks have the
7 potential to provide stable, predictable, and lower-cost energy for heating
8 and cooling, and expanding access to geothermal and thermal energy
9 resources can help reduce energy burdens for income-qualified
10 households and improve energy affordability for Coloradans."
- 11 Page 4, line 13, strike "pathways;" and substitute "pathways; and".
- 12 Page 4, strike lines 14 through 16 and substitute:
13 "(b) This act does not limit any authority that a local government
14 already has under the local government's organic statute or other state law
15 to provide thermal energy service; and".
- 16 Page 4, strike lines 19 through 27.
- 17 Strike page 5.
- 18 Page 6, strike lines 1 through 19.

1 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

2 Page 8, strike lines 6 and 7 and insert:

3 "(4) A PRIVATE ENTITY, OTHER THAN AN ENTITY THAT IS A UTILITY
4 REGULATED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OR AN AFFILIATE OF A
5 PUBLIC UTILITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-3-104.3 (4)(b), THAT
6 OPERATES, MAINTAINS, OR MANAGES".

7 Page 9, after line 1 insert:

8 "(d) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION,
9 NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (5) SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT,
10 RESTRICT, OR OTHERWISE IMPAIR THE BONDING, FINANCING, OR
11 CREDIT-RAISING AUTHORITY, OR ANY POWERS INCIDENTAL TO THAT
12 AUTHORITY, GRANTED TO A LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY ITS ORGANIC
13 STATUTE OR ANY OTHER PROVISION OF STATE LAW."

14 Page 10, strike lines 7 through 27.

15 Page 11, strike lines 1 through 6.

16 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

17 Page 12, after line 9 insert:

18 "SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-60-106, add
19 (2.5)(c) as follows:

20 **34-60-106. Additional powers of commission - fees - rules -**
21 **definitions - repeal.**

22 (2.5) (c) IN EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE
23 COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 60, THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT
24 CONDITION ANY APPROVAL OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS ON AN OPERATOR
25 AGREEING TO SUBJECT THE OPERATOR'S OIL AND GAS WELLS TO THE DATA
26 COLLECTION PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN SECTION 37-90.5-112."

27 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

28 Page 12, line 24, strike "OR" and substitute "OR, WITH THE CONSENT OF
29 THE OPERATOR,".

30 Page 13, line 25, strike "COLLECT" and substitute "CONSIDER".

- 1 Page 14, strike line 14 and substitute "ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE
2 RESOURCES;
3 (IV) CONDUCTED VOLUNTARILY WHEN DATA IS PROVIDED BY AN
4 ENTITY OTHER THAN THE COMMISSION OR THE COLORADO GEOLOGICAL
5 SURVEY; AND".
- 6 Renumber succeeding subparagraph accordingly.
- 7 Page 15, line 12, after "STATUTORY" insert "OR REGULATORY".
- 8 Page 15, line 13, strike "RESPONSIBILITIES." and substitute
9 "RESPONSIBILITIES OR EXISTING PERMITTING AND REGULATORY
10 PROGRAMS."
- 11 Page 17, line 2, strike "THIS SECTION IS REPEALED," and substitute "THIS
12 SUBSECTION (4) AND SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SECTION ARE
13 REPEALED,".
- 14 Page 17, strike line 4 and substitute "(2)(a)(IV) as follows:".
- 15 Page 17, strike lines 15 through 27.
- 16 Page 18, line 5, after "**duties -**" insert "**labor requirements -**".
- 17 Page 18, line 14, strike "NET" and substitute "NAMEPLATE".
- 18 Page 18, line 22, strike "NET" and substitute "NAMEPLATE".
- 19 Page 19, line 6, strike "MAY" and substitute "SHALL".
- 20 Page 19, line 10, strike "REQUEST-FOR-PROPOSAL PERIOD" and substitute
21 "REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS".
- 22 Page 19, line 12, strike "MAY" and substitute "SHALL".
- 23 Page 19, line 13, strike "PROJECTS," and substitute "PROJECTS IF THE
24 UTILITY RECEIVES A BID IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
25 SOLICITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION (2),".
- 26 Page 20, strike lines 1 and 2 and substitute "SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO
27 THIS SUBSECTION (2) WITHIN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS AFTER
28 RECEIVING THE APPLICATION, OR WITHIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS
29 AFTER RECEIVING THE APPLICATION, FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN.".

- 1 Page 20, strike line 6 and substitute "FACTORS THAT INCLUDE:".
- 2 Page 20, strike line 18 and substitute "UTILITY SHALL REQUEST, AS
3 APPROPRIATE:".
- 4 Page 20, line 24, after "ANY" insert "USED AND USEFUL".
- 5 Page 20, line 27, after "(a)" insert "(I)".
- 6 Page 21, line 4, strike "MAY" and substitute "SHALL".
- 7 Page 21, line 5, strike "OR (4)".
- 8 Page 21, after line 5 insert:
- 9 "(II) WHEN SOLICITING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IN
10 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION (3)(a), THE INVESTOR-OWNED
11 ELECTRIC UTILITY SHALL TARGET THE ACQUISITION OR DEVELOPMENT OF
12 NO MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED MEGAWATTS OF NAMEPLATE ELECTRIC
13 GENERATING CAPACITY FROM LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL PROJECTS.".
- 14 Page 21, line 8, strike "REQUEST-FOR-PROPOSAL PERIOD" and substitute
15 "REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS".
- 16 Page 21, line 10, strike "MAY" and substitute "SHALL".
- 17 Page 21, line 11, strike "PROJECTS," and substitute "PROJECTS IF THE
18 UTILITY RECEIVES A BID IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
19 SOLICITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION (3),".
- 20 Page 21, line 21, strike "AND".
- 21 Page 21, line 24, strike "CUSTOMERS." and substitute "CUSTOMERS;".
- 22 Page 21, after line 24 insert:
- 23 "(V) THE PROPOSED OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE FOR THE
24 LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL PROJECTS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE FULL OR
25 PARTIAL BUILD TRANSFER OWNERSHIP STRUCTURES, JOINT VENTURES, OR
26 INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCTION OWNERSHIP STRUCTURES WITH A
27 POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT; AND
28 (VI) A DESCRIPTION OF ANY SPECIFIC CUSTOMER OR GROUP OF
29 CUSTOMERS THAT THE INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITY MAY PARTNER

1 WITH TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL
2 PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (3)(d) OF THIS SECTION."

3 Page 21, strike line 27 and substitute "SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS
4 SUBSECTION (3) WITHIN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS AFTER RECEIVING
5 THE APPLICATION, OR WITHIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS AFTER
6 RECEIVING THE APPLICATION, FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN."

7 Page 22, strike line 1.

8 Page 22, line 12, strike "RESOURCES," and substitute "RESOURCES TO
9 MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMY-WIDE GOAL OF NET-ZERO
10 EMISSIONS BY 2050,".

11 Page 22, line 27, strike "(3)" and substitute "(3)."

12 Page 23, strike line 1 and substitute "AN".

13 Page 23, after line 7 insert:

14 "(4) **Labor requirements.** A SMALL-SCALE GEOTHERMAL PROJECT
15 OR A LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL PROJECT AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO
16 THIS SECTION THAT IS CONSIDERED AN ENERGY SECTOR PUBLIC WORKS
17 PROJECT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-92-303 (5), MUST COMPLY WITH:

18 (a) THE PREVAILING WAGE REQUIREMENTS IN PART 2 OF ARTICLE
19 92 OF TITLE 24;

20 (b) THE APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION
21 24-92-115 (7); AND

22 (c) THE LABOR REQUIREMENTS IN PART 3 OF ARTICLE 92 OF TITLE
23 24."

24 Page 23, strike lines 8 through 27.

25 Page 24, strike lines 1 through 8.

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