

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2854

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Electric Reliability Organization to propose a reliability standard that addresses the resilience of the bulk-power system, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Electric Reliability Organization to propose a reliability standard that addresses the resilience of the bulk-power system, and for other purposes.

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 “Utility Resilience and
5 Reliability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROPOSED RELIABILITY STANDARD.**

2 Section 215(d) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.
3 824o(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following
4 new paragraph:

5 “(7) RESILIENCE OF BULK-POWER SYSTEM.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Electric
8 Reliability Organization shall file with the Commis-
9 sion a proposed reliability standard that addresses
10 the resilience of the bulk-power system.

11 “(B) REGIONAL DIFFERENCES.—The proposed
12 reliability standard filed under subsection (A) shall
13 take into account regional differences.

14 “(C) RESILIENCE DEFINED.—In this para-
15 graph, the term ‘resilience’ means the ability to—

16 “(i) prepare for and adapt to changing
17 conditions; and

18 “(ii) withstand and rapidly recover from
19 disruptions, including disruptions caused by ex-
20 treme weather conditions.”.

21 **SEC. 3. ELECTRIC GRID RESILIENCE EDUCATION PRO-**
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Energy
25 shall establish a program to provide information and rec-

1 ommendations to States and electric utilities on how to
2 improve the resilience of electric grids.

3 (b) **ELECTRIC UTILITY DEFINED.**—The term “elec-
4 tric utility” has the meaning given such term in section
5 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

6 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON PLANNED ELECTRIC POWER OUTAGES**
7 **DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

8 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
9 of this section, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to
10 Congress a report, and publish such report on the website
11 of the Department of Energy, that provides recommenda-
12 tions on how to minimize the need for, effects of, and du-
13 ration of planned electric power outages that are due to
14 extreme weather conditions, including such conditions
15 under which the National Weather Service issues a red
16 flag warning.

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