

By: Murr

H.B. No. 4574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an interim committee to study large-scale battery storage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "large-scale battery storage" includes:

(1) utility-scale or grid-scale storage of electric energy using batteries for connection to electric power generation or transmission and distribution networks to provide for flexibility in electric power systems and optimal use of electric energy resources;

(2) storage of electric energy using batteries to provide electric power to large industrial, office, or other facilities or to residential communities; and

(3) electric energy storage using equipment or facilities described by Subchapter E, Chapter 35, Utilities Code, to the extent the facilities employ battery technology.

SECTION 2. INTERIM COMMITTEE; STUDY AND REPORT. (a) An interim committee is established to study large-scale battery storage.

(b) The study must consider:

(1) current statutes, regulations, and ordinances regarding large-scale battery storage in this state;

(2) the status of state oversight and regulation of

1 large-scale battery storage, including by the Public Utility
2 Commission of Texas, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,
3 the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and other state
4 agencies;

5 (3) fire safety standards for large-scale battery
6 storage; and

7 (4) building code standards for large-scale battery
8 storage.

9 (c) The interim committee shall be composed of members
10 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. The
11 members must include:

12 (1) members of the house of representatives;

13 (2) two individuals to represent the large-scale
14 battery storage industry; and

15 (3) two members of the general public.

16 (d) The speaker of the house of representatives shall
17 designate a member of the interim committee to serve as the chair of
18 the committee.

19 (e) The interim committee has all other powers and duties
20 provided to a special committee by the rules of the house of
21 representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and
22 by policies of the House Committee on Administration.

23 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the joint interim
24 committee shall report the committee's findings and
25 recommendations to the governor and the members of the legislature.
26 The report must include recommendations for best practices to
27 address public safety concerns regarding the location and operation

1 of large-scale battery storage.

2 SECTION 3. EXPIRATION; ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The interim
3 committee established by Section 2 of this Act is abolished and this
4 Act expires January 10, 2025.

5 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
6 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
7 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
8 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
9 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.