

House Public Utilities and Energy Committee

1/30/2025

Bill: 1st substitute HB 212 – Grid Enhancing Technologies

Sponsor: Representative Chritine F. Watkins

Floor Sponsor: TBD

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill makes changes to the Energy Resource Procurement Act.

Discussion: 1st substitute HB 212, which was adopted by the Committee, makes changes to the Energy Resource Procurement Act. The intent of this Bill is to make energy transmission more efficient. The sponsor believes that by utilizing technology, efficiency can be created which would lower costs for rate-payers, expand capacity, and decrease wildfire risks without needed to build more infrastructure. This Bill encourages utility service providers to evaluate the available software and hardware technologies and directs the Public Utilities Commission to encourage the use of cost effective advanced transmission technologies (“ATTS”).

Representative Peck asked if any additional hardware would be needed to connect homes to ATTS. The sponsor said that the Bill only applies to power transmission lines and the movement of energy. A representative for the Pew Charitable Trust (“PCT”) confirmed that this Bill deals with the overall transmission of power and not the distribution to individual homes or end users. Representative Peck asked who will be funding the evaluations and implementation of ATTS. This Bill encourages energy utilities to consider the available advanced technologies. If the evaluation shows that utilizing certain technologies would be cost effective, the utilities would be encouraged to integrate the technology into their systems. The ultimate goal is to produce more power at a lower cost. Representative Jack pointed out that the Bill does not require utilities to adopt any new technology, it simply provides encouragement to utilize the most cost effective and energy efficient technologies. Representative Dominguez asked what transmission systems are being used currently, how old the systems are, and what technologies are available. The PCT representative responded that he can’t say for certain, but confirmed that, currently, outdated technology being used. The Office of Energy Development, Utah Clean Energy, and a member of the public spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 212 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
