

HB 17-1299 – Exploring the Effects of Energy Storage Rep. Coleman & Rep. Hansen

The opportunity:

Colorado's population is growing at a rapid pace and faces increasing energy needs. Integration of energy storage into the electric resource planning process may benefit the ratepayers of Colorado. HB 17-1299 will convene a committee to explore the potential economic and social benefits and costs of having the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to determine the appropriate targets, if any, for viable and cost-effective energy storage systems.

What the bill does:

HB 17-1299 will provide insight into the effects of including an increased number of energy storage systems in Colorado.

The bill:

- Calls on the Transportation Legislation Review Committee (TLRC) to hold a hearing on or before December 1, 2017
- Directs the committee to investigate the potential costs and benefits that would arise from having the PUC examine appropriate approaches for energy storage systems
- Will invite members of the public utilities commission, representatives of Colorado's service providers, and interested members of the public to engage in a panel discussion on energy storage
- Allows for members of the public to submit written question to the panel

Potential benefits:

Energy storage systems can:

- Improve the reliability and security of service
- Optimize use of variable, intermittent, and off-peak generation from sources such as hydroelectric, wind, and solar
- Reduce costs to ratepayers by avoiding or delaying construction of new peaking power plants, upgrades to the distribution and transmission system, and expansion of the electrical grid
- Reduce the use of electricity generated from costly fuels and avoid the need for additional electric generation facilities – reducing ratepayer charges