

**SENATE BILL No. 274**

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-18

1 AN ACT concerning energy; relating to the state corporation commission;  
2 requiring the commission to engage a consulting firm to conduct a  
3 technical and legal feasibility study on new nuclear energy generation  
4 in this state; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal year  
5 ending June 30, 2026, for the state corporation commission.  
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. (a) (1) To provide information that may assist future  
9 legislative and regulatory efforts to craft forward-looking nuclear energy  
10 policy, the state corporation commission shall engage an outside  
11 consulting firm to conduct a technical and legal feasibility study regarding  
12 the promotion of nuclear energy generation in this state. The commission  
13 shall choose a consulting firm that:

14 (A) Is well-established in the nuclear industry and has been in  
15 existence for more than 35 years;

16 (B) currently has or has had at least 90% of the existing nuclear  
17 operators in the United States as a customer within the preceding 10 years;

18 (C) has earned 50% of the firm's revenue from nuclear licensing over  
19 the preceding 20 years; and

20 (D) is staffed by a licensed attorney who has experience in assisting  
21 entities with submitting and obtaining regulatory licenses, certifications  
22 and approvals for new reactor designs pursuant to 10 C.F.R. part 52.

23 (2) In addition to the foregoing requirements, if competent to perform  
24 such services as defined in K.S.A. 73-201(a)(2), and amendments thereto,  
25 the commission shall give preference to a consulting firm that is managed  
26 by and has at least 40% of the firm's assets owned by one or more  
27 individuals who are military veterans and whose military service included  
28 nuclear operating experiences.

29 (3) The provisions of K.S.A. 75-3739 et seq., and amendments  
30 thereto, shall not apply to any contract established pursuant to this section.

31 (b) The feasibility study conducted by such firm shall consider the  
32 following:

33 (1) The advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy generation in  
34 this state, including, but not limited to, the economic and environmental  
35 impacts;

36 (2) ways to maximize the use of workers who reside in this state and

- 1 products made in this state in the construction of nuclear energy generation  
2 facilities;
- 3 (3) evaluations, conclusions and recommendations on the following:
- 4 (A) Design characteristics and evaluation, including specific  
5 recommendations of optimal designs based on site characteristics and  
6 possible industrial uses;
- 7 (B) environmental and ecological impacts;
- 8 (C) land and siting criteria, including specific areas that are best  
9 suited for new nuclear generation based on the land and siting criteria;
- 10 (D) safety criteria;
- 11 (E) engineering and cost-related criteria; and
- 12 (F) small modular nuclear reactor and microreactor capability;
- 13 (4) socioeconomic assessment and impact analysis, including, but not  
14 limited to, the following:
- 15 (A) Workforce education, training and development;
- 16 (B) local and state tax base;
- 17 (C) supply chains; and
- 18 (D) permanent and temporary job creation;
- 19 (5) the timeline for development, including areas of potential  
20 acceleration or efficiencies and leveraging existing facilities within this  
21 state;
- 22 (6) additional efficiencies and other benefits that may be gained by  
23 coordinating with other advanced, clean energy technologies, including,  
24 but not limited to, hydrogen, direct air capture of carbon dioxide and  
25 energy storage;
- 26 (7) literature review of studies that have assessed the potential impact  
27 of nuclear energy generation in supporting an energy transition; and
- 28 (8) assessment and recommendation of current and future policies  
29 that may be needed to support or accelerate the adoption of nuclear energy  
30 generation or may improve its cost-effectiveness, including a survey of  
31 federal programs and other methods that could financially assist a nuclear  
32 project in this state.
- 33 (c) The state corporation commission, public utilities, cooperatives  
34 and municipally owned utilities shall cooperate in providing information  
35 relevant to the feasibility study, as needed, subject to notifications to  
36 stakeholders and reasonable safeguards to protect confidential information.  
37 Any record provided to the consulting firm pursuant to this section shall be  
38 confidential and not subject to the provisions of the Kansas open records  
39 act, K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and amendments thereto. The provisions of this  
40 subsection shall expire on July 1, 2030, unless the legislature reviews and  
41 reenacts this provision pursuant to K.S.A. 45-229, and amendments  
42 thereto, prior to July 1, 2030.
- 43 (d) The feasibility study shall be prepared and submitted to the

1 legislature, the governor, the senate committee on utilities and the house of  
2 representatives committee on energy, utilities and telecommunications on  
3 or before April 1, 2026.

4 Sec. 2.

5 KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

6 (a) There is hereby appropriated for the above agency from the state  
7 general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

8 Nuclear feasibility study.....\$375,000

9 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
10 publication in the statute book.