

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7186

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

JUNE 11, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. BERA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. SWALWELL of California) 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 SYS-
6 TEM.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
8 year after the date of enactment of this
9 paragraph, the Electric Reliability Organi-
10 zation shall file with the Commission a
11 proposed reliability standard that address-
12 es the resilience of the bulk-power system.

13 “(B) REGIONAL DIFFERENCES.—The
14 proposed reliability standard filed under
15 subsection (A) shall take into account re-
16 gional differences.

17 “(C) RESILIENCE DEFINED.—In this
18 paragraph, the term ‘resilience’ means the
19 ability to—

20 “(i) prepare for and adapt to
21 changing conditions; and

22 “(ii) withstand and rapidly re-
23 cover from disruptions, including dis-
24 ruptions caused by extreme weather
25 conditions.”.

1 **SEC. 3. ELECTRIC GRID RESILIENCE EDUCATION PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Energy
5 shall establish a program to provide information and rec-
6 ommendations to States and electric utilities on how to
7 improve the resilience of electric grids.

8 (b) ELECTRIC UTILITY DEFINED.—The term “elec-
9 tric utility” has the meaning given such term in section
10 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

11 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON PLANNED ELECTRIC POWER OUTAGES**
12 **DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

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

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