

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

HB 266, relative to structural changes to the department of energy.

Hearing Date: February 11, 2026

Time Opened: 9:01 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:05 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent : Senators Gannon and Reardon

Bill Analysis: This bill:

I. Ensures the department's full party status in proceedings before the public utilities commission.

II. Requires the department to support the public utilities commission, site evaluation committee, office of the consumer advocate, and any related entities.

III. Allow the department to demand documents and specific answers from public utilities or related entities.

This bill is at the request of the department of energy.

Sponsors:

Rep. Harrington

Rep. Notter

Rep. Summers

Who supports the bill: Meg Stone (DOE), David Shulock (DOE).

Who opposes the bill: Ann Podlipny, Kathy Archibald, Deborah Fexis, Russell Siggelkoe, Abby Evankow, Susan Garcia, Janine Fabiano, Bonnie Hill, Meredith Piotrow, Greg Marsello, John Walsh, Janet Robertson, Claudia Istel, Sandra Bravo, Stephen Bravo, Lynn Merlone, Elizabeth Molloy, Jane Hershey, Patricia Martin, David Holt, Susan Richman, Melissa Marry, Regina Conrad, Wiltrud Mott-Smith.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Meg Stone and David Shulock of the Department of Energy

- Ms. Stone voiced the support for HB 266
- Ms. Stone explained that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) had concerns as the bill was originally written but the house amendment should address those concerns.
- She stated that the intent of HB 266 is to ensure that the department of energy's record is what the department presents to the commission. Ms. Stone added that other changes made by the House of Representatives to put into law procedures that the department already practices.
- She explained that the bill clarifies the scope of authority for the Utilities Commission.
- Ms. Stone stated that under HB 266 the PUC will be administratively attached to the Department of Energy, as is standard.
- She added that this legislation makes the Department of Energy an automatic party in all PUC cases.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 12, 2026