AN ACT concerning energy policy; relating to the state corporation commission; development of a state energy plan.

WHEREAS, The electric rate study that was required by the Kansas legislature in 2019 Substitute for Senate Bill No. 69 was intended to assist future legislative and regulatory efforts in developing an electric policy that includes regionally competitive rates and reliable electric service; and

WHEREAS, The study identifies that Kansas lacks a state energy plan, and the development of a plan would help Kansas determine the state's energy goals and how to achieve them while minimizing the costs to Kansans; and

WHEREAS, Affordable, reliable, clean and abundant energy is critical to the health and welfare of Kansas citizens, and meeting the state's need for such energy will require engagement of all energy stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, A state energy plan will help ensure that future utility investments and operational expenditures are cost effective to help foster long-term energy affordability and price stability for Kansas' residents, businesses and institutions; and

WHEREAS, Development of a state energy plan will lead the state towards a prosperous and sustainable energy future and will create jobs and improve the quality of life for all Kansans; and

WHEREAS, Kansas will benefit from a comprehensive, adaptable, guiding and strategic state energy plan.

Now, therefore:

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

Section 1. (a) The state corporation commission shall lead a statewide initiative to develop a comprehensive state energy plan and shall present such proposed plan to the legislature in accordance with subsection (d).

The state energy plan shall establish statewide strategies to:

1. Meet current and future energy needs in a manner that promotes affordability and price stability for energy consumers;
2. Enhance energy system and infrastructure reliability, resiliency, safety and security;
3. Stimulate economic development;
4. Expand economic opportunity and workforce development;
5. Stimulate development of new and emerging energy technologies...
and systems;

(6) promote diversity of the resources that supply energy to and within Kansas while preserving cost-effectiveness for consumers; and

(7) promote the protection of the environment and the state's natural resources.

(b) The state energy plan shall:

(1) Take into consideration a holistic perspective of the state's energy profile, including all energy resources and end-use sectors, and include input from the public and all interested stakeholders;

(2) project future energy supply and demand and model the potential impacts of supply shifts, geopolitical risks and uncertainties, technological changes and other factors that affect short-term and long-term energy needs;

(3) provide a framework that allows leaders across the state to make informed and educated decisions based on the predictability ensured by a defined and structured plan; and

(4) offer a deliberate and vetted plan of action that lays out clear recommendations and actions that identify measurable and achievable goals.

(c) The state corporation commission shall conduct public meetings around the state and shall solicit input from the public and all interested stakeholders in the development of the state energy plan.

(d) (1) During the 2021 regular session of the legislature, the commission shall submit an interim report on the progress of the development of the state energy plan, including any preliminary recommendations, to the house of representatives standing committee on energy, utilities and telecommunications and to the senate standing committee on utilities.

(2) During the 2022 regular session of the legislature, the commission shall submit a report on the proposed state energy plan to the legislature and shall present such plan to the house of representatives standing committee on energy, utilities and telecommunications and to the senate standing committee on utilities.

(e) On or before July 1, 2022, the state corporation commission shall adopt the state energy plan if such plan has been approved by the legislature by law or concurrent resolution.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.