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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 308
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 308's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Energy and Natural Resources

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stein and Brennan

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Michael Kerr, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill labels nuclear energy as “green energy.” No direct fiscal effect on the state or local governments is expected from this change in definition.

Detailed Analysis

Nuclear energy currently comprises roughly 12% of the net electricity generation in the state, with the majority of generation derived from natural gas and about one-fourth from coal.¹ See the chart below. The bill adds nuclear energy to the list of energy resources labeled as “green energy”; current law defines the characteristics of this distinction and explicitly includes energy generated from natural gas.

At present, Ohio has two nuclear power plants statewide.² However, several commercial companies have expressed interest in developing novel small modular reactors (SMRs) for construction in Ohio in recent years, including one that has already received design approval from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.³ In addition, a newly built uranium enrichment plant,

¹ The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Electricity Data Browser, Net Annual Generation, Ohio, [Fuel Types](#) (check all), 2023.

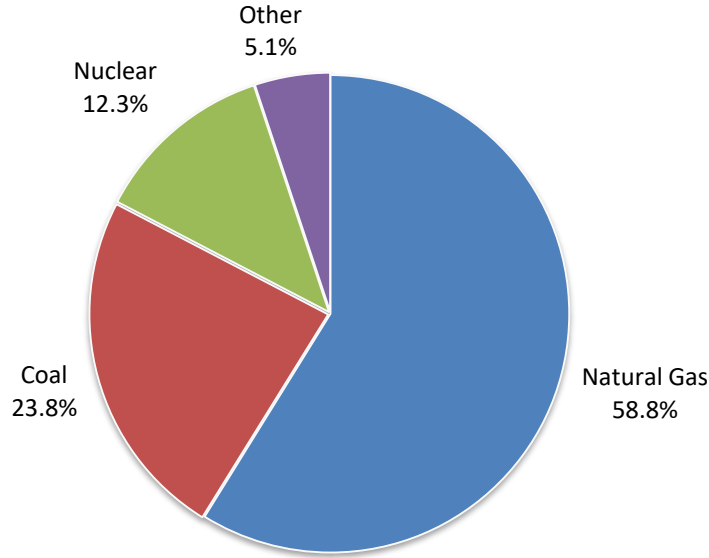
² The U.S. EIA, Electricity Data Browser, [Plant Level Data](#), Ohio, 2023.

³ [Businesswire](#), October 6, 2023; [Cleveland.com](#), May 26, 2023; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy, [NRC Certifies First U.S. Small Modular Reactor Design](#), January 20, 2023.

under contract with the U.S. Department of Energy, recently opened in Piketon, Ohio.⁴ This facility is capable of providing the fuel needed for many SMRs.

Green energy is defined as any energy generated using a resource that releases reduced air pollutants or is more sustainable and reliable relative to some fossil fuels. The term “green energy” is not used elsewhere in the Revised Code. This purely definitional change is not expected to increase costs to the state or local governments.

2023 Ohio Net Electricity Generation by Fuel Type



FNHB0308RH-135/zg

⁴ U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy, [HALEU Demonstration Project Starts Enrichment Operations in Ohio](#), October 11, 2023.