

1 HOUSE BILL 258

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Matthew McQueen and Kristina Ortez and Leo Jaramillo

10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES; PROVIDING NATURAL GAS CAPTURE
12 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPERATOR OF AN OIL OR GAS WELL OR NATURAL
13 GAS GATHERING SYSTEM; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 SECTION 1. A new section of the Oil and Gas Act is
17 enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] NATURAL GAS CAPTURE REQUIREMENTS--RULES.--

19 A. Beginning January 1, 2027, an operator shall
20 ensure that at least ninety-eight percent of the natural gas
21 produced or gathered by the operator's facilities is captured
22 in a calendar year; provided that natural gas shall not be
23 included in the determination of an operator's overall capture
24 percentage if that gas is:

25 (1) released during an emergency;

.230060.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

- 1 (2) beneficially used by the operator;
- 2 (3) not suitable for transportation or
- 3 processing due to nitrogen, hydrogen sulfide or carbon dioxide
- 4 concentrations;
- 5 (4) vented as a result of the normal operation
- 6 of pneumatic controllers and pumps; or
- 7 (5) vented or flared from an exploratory well.

8 B. The division shall promulgate rules necessary to
9 implement the provisions of this section.

10 C. As used in this section, "operator" means a
11 person that is duly authorized to construct, manage or operate
12 an oil or gas well or associated facilities or a natural gas
13 gathering system."