



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4803

by Rep. Dave Vella

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Electric Transmission Colocation and Siting Priority Act. Defines terms. Requires that, in the siting of new electric transmission facilities, available corridors be used in the following order of priority: (1) existing public utility corridors; (2) State highway corridors; and (3) new corridors. Provides that a public utility or transmission developer may construct, place, or maintain a high-voltage transmission line on a public right-of-way or along a highway if (i) the public utility or transmission developer submits a colocation request for the high-voltage transmission line to the Secretary of Transportation and (ii) the Secretary reviews and approves the colocation request. Provides that the Secretary may deny a colocation request if the Secretary determines that the construction, placement, or maintenance of a high-voltage transmission line on a public right-of-way or along a highway would endanger public safety or would interfere with the proper function of the highway. Provides that a public utility or transmission developer may submit a written request to the Department of Transportation for an evaluation of certain corridors for possible locations for a high-voltage transmission line. Provides that, within 30 days after receipt of a written request, the Secretary shall assign a project coordinator to the request. Provides that a project coordinator, upon assignment to a request, shall begin the evaluation in coordination with the applicable public utility or transmission developer. Requires a public utility or transmission developer to develop a constructability report in consultation with the Department and requires the public utility or transmission developer and the Department to follow the terms and conditions of the constructability report during the planning and approval process for the siting of a high-voltage transmission line. Sets forth requirements for the content of the constructability report. Provides that, if the Department requires that a high-voltage transmission line on a public right-of-way be relocated by a specific date, the Department shall give the applicable public utility or transmission developer notice of the required relocation no less than 10 years before the date of the required relocation. Makes other changes. Effective January 1, 2027.

LRB104 16923 AAS 30337 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Electric Transmission Colocation and Siting Priority Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Section:

7 "Commission" means the Illinois Commerce Commission.

8 "Department" means the Illinois Department of
9 Transportation.

10 "Electric transmission facility" means an electrical
11 transmission system designed and constructed with the
12 capability of being safely and reliably energized at 69
13 kilovolts or more, including transmission lines, transmission
14 towers, conductors, insulators, foundations, grounding
15 systems, access roads, and all associated transmission
16 facilities, including transmission substations. "Electric
17 transmission facility" does not include a project located on
18 the electric generating side of a facility's point of
19 interconnection.

20 "Highway" has the meaning given to that term in Section
21 2-202 of the Illinois Highway Code.

22 "High-voltage transmission line" means any line for the
23 transmission of electric current with a nominal voltage of at

1 least 115 kilovolts that is colocated longitudinally in a
2 public right-of-way or a corridor, including all supporting
3 structures and accessories necessary for such line.
4 "High-voltage transmission line" does not include any line for
5 the transmission of electric current that crosses through but
6 is not wholly contained within a State highway right-of-way.

7 "Public utility" has the meaning given to that term in
8 Section 3-105 of the Public Utilities Act.

9 "Public utility corridor" means the land, or interest
10 therein, acquired for or devoted to a public utility to place
11 and maintain infrastructure for electricity, water, gas, or
12 internet service.

13 "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation.

14 "State highway corridor" means the land, or interest
15 therein, acquired for or devoted to a State highway.

16 "Transmission developer" means any company that (i) has
17 been issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity
18 in this State that authorizes the company to own and operate an
19 electric transmission line and (ii) is a State electric
20 utility, as defined in Section 16-102 of the Public Utilities
21 Act, or an affiliate of a State electric utility through a
22 common ownership structure.

23 Section 10. Electric transmission siting priorities.

24 (a) In the siting of new electric transmission facilities,
25 including high-voltage transmission lines, available corridors

1 shall be used in the following order of priority:

2 (1) Existing public utility corridors.

3 (2) State highway corridors.

4 (3) New corridors.

5 (b) Permitting on the corridors listed in subsection (a)
6 shall be done, to the greatest extent possible, in a manner
7 that accounts for economic and engineering considerations, the
8 reliability of the electric system, and the protection of the
9 environment.

10 Section 15. High-voltage transmission line colocation
11 requests.

12 (a) A public utility or transmission developer may
13 construct, place, or maintain a high-voltage transmission line
14 on a public right-of-way or along a highway if (i) the public
15 utility or transmission developer submits to the Secretary a
16 colocation request for the high-voltage transmission line and
17 (ii) the Secretary reviews and approves the colocation
18 request.

19 (b) The Secretary may deny a colocation request under this
20 Section if the Secretary determines that the construction,
21 placement, or maintenance of a high-voltage transmission line
22 on a public right-of-way or along a highway would endanger
23 public safety or would interfere with the proper function of
24 the highway.

25 (c) If the Secretary denies a colocation request under

1 this Section, the Secretary shall submit the reasons for the
2 denial to the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency,
3 the Executive Director of the Commission, and the Director of
4 Commerce and Economic Opportunity within 90 days after the
5 issuance of the denial.

6 Section 20. Consultation and constructability report.

7 (a) A public utility or transmission developer may submit
8 a written request to the Department for an evaluation of the
9 corridors described in subsection (a) of Section 10 for
10 possible locations for a high-voltage transmission line.
11 Within 30 days after receipt of a written request under this
12 subsection (a), the Secretary shall assign a project
13 coordinator to the request. A project coordinator, upon
14 assignment to a request, shall begin the evaluation in
15 coordination with the applicable public utility or
16 transmission developer.

17 (b) The Department shall inform a public utility or
18 transmission developer about any of the Department's current
19 plans or projects that could impact the public utility's or
20 transmission developer's potential construction or placement
21 of a high-voltage transmission line within a corridor.

22 (c) After an evaluation under subsection (a) identifies an
23 acceptable location within a corridor, a public utility or
24 transmission developer, in consultation with the Department,
25 shall develop a constructability report. The constructability

1 report shall include (i) the terms and conditions for the
2 siting of the high-voltage transmission line and (ii) an
3 agreed-upon time frame during which the Department may not
4 request the relocation of the high-voltage transmission line.
5 The Department shall issue a permit to the public utility or
6 transmission developer for the use of a public right-of-way
7 within the corridor for the siting of a high-voltage
8 transmission line only after a constructability report is
9 approved by both the Department and the public utility or
10 transmission developer.

11 (d) A public utility or transmission developer and the
12 Department shall follow the terms and conditions of the
13 approved constructability report during the planning and
14 approval process for the siting of a high-voltage transmission
15 line. If the Department requires the relocation of a
16 high-voltage transmission line on a public right-of-way by a
17 specific date, the Department shall give the applicable public
18 utility or transmission developer notice of the required
19 relocation no less than 10 years before the date of the
20 required relocation.

21 Section 25. Relocation notice and cost responsibility

22 (a) If the Department requires the relocation of a
23 high-voltage transmission line during the prohibited time
24 frame specified in the constructability report or the
25 Department provides notice of the required relocation of a

1 high-voltage transmission line to a public utility or
2 transmission developer less than 10 years before the date of
3 the required relocation, the Department shall be responsible
4 for 75% of the costs incurred by the public utility or
5 transmission developer in the relocation of the high-voltage
6 transmission line.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on
8 January 1, 2027.