

SENATE BILL 920

M5, C5

4lr2439

By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Maryland Electric Transmission Authority – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Electric Transmission Authority to serve as
4 the lead State agency on issues related to electricity transmission; requiring the
5 Authority to advocate on, research, evaluate, and identify certain issues related to
6 electricity transmission; and generally relating to the Maryland Electric
7 Transmission Authority.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – State Government

10 Section 9–3801 through 9–3804 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 38. Maryland
11 Electric Transmission Authority”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – State Government**

17 **SUBTITLE 38. MARYLAND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY.**

18 **9–3801.**

19 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
20 INDICATED.

21 (B) “ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES” MEANS TOOLS THAT CAN:

22 (1) HELP ADDRESS TRANSMISSION CHALLENGES;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTRICITY**
2 **DELIVERY; AND**

3 **(3) INCREASE THE RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCE OF THE ELECTRIC**
4 **TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.**

5 **(C) “AUTHORITY” MEANS THE MARYLAND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION**
6 **AUTHORITY.**

7 **(D) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.**

8 **(E) “DIRECTOR” MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ELECTRIC**
9 **TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY.**

10 **(F) “FERC” MEANS THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION.**

11 **(G) “PJM” MEANS PJM INTERCONNECTION, LLC OR ANY SUCCESSOR**
12 **ORGANIZATION THAT SERVICES THE PJM REGION.**

13 **9-3802.**

14 **(A) THE AUTHORITY IS ESTABLISHED AS A SEPARATE UNIT OF STATE**
15 **GOVERNMENT.**

16 **(B) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR, THE AUTHORITY SHALL**
17 **SERVE AS THE LEAD STATE AGENCY ON ISSUES RELATED TO ELECTRICITY**
18 **TRANSMISSION, INCLUDING:**

19 **(1) ENGAGING WITH PJM, OTHER STATES, FERC, AND THE FEDERAL**
20 **GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES RELATED TO ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION; AND**

21 **(2) COORDINATING WITH PJM AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO**
22 **ADVANCE AND FACILITATE TRANSMISSION PLANNING, SITING, AND PERMITTING.**

23 **(C) WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE, THE GOVERNOR**
24 **SHALL APPOINT THE DIRECTOR OF THE AUTHORITY.**

25 **(D) (1) THE AUTHORITY SHALL HAVE THE STAFF PROVIDED FOR IN THE**
26 **STATE BUDGET.**

27 **(2) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, STAFFING**
28 **FOR THE AUTHORITY SHALL INCLUDE:**

- 1 **(I) WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKET SPECIALISTS;**
2 **(II) ATTORNEYS;**
3 **(III) ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS;**
4 **(IV) LAND USE SPECIALISTS; AND**
5 **(V) OTHER RELEVANT EXPERTS.**

6 **9-3803.**

7 **THE AUTHORITY SHALL:**

8 **(1) ADVOCATE TO ENSURE PJM, FERC, AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT**
9 **OF ENERGY TRANSMISSION PLANNING PROCESSES AND ORDERS REFLECT THE**
10 **STATE'S ENERGY POLICY GOALS AND PRIORITIES;**

11 **(2) ENGAGE IN RESEARCH TO DETERMINE THE BENEFITS OF**
12 **REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL COORDINATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF**
13 **INTERSTATE ENERGY TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS;**

14 **(3) RESEARCH AND SUPPORT TRANSMISSION PLANNING ACTIVITIES**
15 **DESIGNED TO:**

16 **(I) REDUCE COSTS;**

17 **(II) INCREASE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION**
18 **SYSTEM RELIABILITY;**

19 **(III) ASSIST THE STATE IN MEETING ITS CLEAN ENERGY GOALS;**

20 **AND**

21 **(IV) AID IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;**

22 **(4) EVALUATE OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENT USE OF**
23 **EXISTING TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE AND RELIEVE CONSTRAINTS ON THE**
24 **TRANSMISSION SYSTEM THROUGH THE USE OF:**

25 **(I) GRID-ENHANCING TECHNOLOGIES;**

26 **(II) STORAGE-AS-TRANSMISSION ASSETS; AND**

1 (III) ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES; AND

2 (5) IDENTIFY AND LEVERAGE FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND FUNDING
3 OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE THE STATE'S AND THE AUTHORITY'S EFFORTS.

4 9-3804.

5 (A) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN
6 THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL A SUFFICIENT APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT THE
7 OPERATIONS OF THE AUTHORITY.

8 (B) THE STATE FUNDING PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION IS
9 SUPPLEMENTAL TO ANY AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDING.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2024.