

HOUSE BILL 657

C5

5lr1844
CF SB 483

By: **Delegates Pippy, Adams, Beauchamp, Bouchat, Buckel, Ciliberti, Grammer, Guyton, Hartman, Jacobs, Kerr, Mangione, Miller, Nawrocki, Otto, Rose, Ruth, Simpson, Stonko, Szeliga, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Alternatives to Construction of New Transmission Lines**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the circumstances under which the Public Service
4 Commission is required to examine alternatives to the construction of a new
5 transmission line; and generally relating to the construction of new transmission
6 lines.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Public Utilities
9 Section 7–209
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Public Utilities**

15 7–209.

16 (a) **(1)** The Commission shall examine alternatives to the construction of a new
17 transmission line in a service area[, including the use of an existing transmission line of
18 another company,] if **THE USE OF AN ALTERNATIVE:**

19 **[(1)] (I)** [the existing transmission line] is convenient to the service area;
20 [or]

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **[(2)] (II)** [the use of the transmission line] will best promote economic and
2 efficient service to the public;

3 **(III) WILL BEST MAINTAIN HISTORICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, OR**
4 **AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AREAS; OR**

5 **(IV) WILL AVOID ANY OVERLAP WITH A LOT, PARCEL, OR TRACT**
6 **OF LAND THAT IS:**

7 **1. LOCATED WITHIN A PLANNED GROWTH AREA**
8 **IDENTIFIED IN THE LOCAL JURISDICTION'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; OR**

9 **2. ZONED FOR RESIDENTIAL USE OR MIXED USE WITH A**
10 **RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT.**

11 **(2) ALTERNATIVES TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TRANSMISSION**
12 **LINE INCLUDE:**

13 **(I) THE USE OF AN EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE OF ANOTHER**
14 **COMPANY;**

15 **(II) THE USE OF AN EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY;**

16 **(III) RECONDUCTORING AN EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE; AND**

17 **(IV) UNDERGROUNDING A TRANSMISSION LINE.**

18 (b) In considering the use of an [existing transmission line] **ALTERNATIVE** under
19 subsection (a) of this section, the Commission need not consider whether the company that
20 owns the line has a franchise in a service area.

21 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
22 **October 1, 2025.**