

# SENATE BILL 483

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5lr3398  
CF 5lr1844

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By: **Senators Gallion, Watson, Brooks, West, Carozza, Hershey, Salling, Bailey, Corderman, Ready, and Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## 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]

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (III) WILL BEST MAINTAIN HISTORICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, OR  
2 AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AREAS; OR

3 (IV) WILL AVOID ANY OVERLAP WITH A LOT, PARCEL, OR TRACT  
4 OF LAND THAT IS:

5 1. LOCATED WITHIN A PLANNED GROWTH AREA  
6 IDENTIFIED IN THE LOCAL JURISDICTION'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; OR

7 2. ZONED FOR RESIDENTIAL USE OR MIXED USE WITH A  
8 RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT.

9 (2) ALTERNATIVES TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TRANSMISSION  
10 LINE INCLUDE:

11 (I) THE USE OF AN EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE OF ANOTHER  
12 COMPANY;

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

14 (III) RECONDUCTORING AN EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE; AND

15 (IV) UNDERGROUNDING A TRANSMISSION LINE.

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

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2025.