

# SENATE BILL 201

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr1112  
CF HB 40

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By: **Senators Brooks, Hettleman, and West**

Requested: October 7, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “qualified generator lead line” for provisions  
4 of law regarding certificates of public convenience and necessity; requiring an  
5 applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of  
6 an overhead transmission line to include certain information in its application;  
7 requiring the Public Service Commission to consider certain evidence before taking  
8 final action on an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for  
9 the construction of an overhead transmission line; requiring each owner or operator  
10 of an overhead transmission line to submit certain reports to the Commission; and  
11 generally relating to overhead transmission lines and advanced transmission  
12 technologies.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Public Utilities

15 Section 7-207(a), (b)(3), and (f)(1)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Public Utilities

20 Section 7-207.6

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Public Utilities**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7-207.

2 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (2) **“ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES” MEANS:**

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

5 (II) **HIGH PERFORMANCE CONDUCTORS; OR**

6 (III) **ENERGY STORAGE USED AS TRANSMISSION.**

7 (3) “Brownfields site” means:

8 (i) a former industrial or commercial site identified by federal or  
9 State laws or regulation as contaminated or polluted;

10 (ii) a closed landfill regulated by the Department of the  
11 Environment; or

12 (iii) mined land.

13 [(3)] (4) (i) “Construction” means:

14 1. any physical change at a site, including fabrication,  
15 erection, installation, or demolition; or

16 2. the entry into a binding agreement or contractual  
17 obligation to purchase equipment exclusively for use in construction in the State or to  
18 undertake a program of actual construction in the State which cannot be canceled or  
19 modified without substantial loss to the owner or operator of the proposed generating  
20 station.

21 (ii) “Construction” does not include a change that is needed for the  
22 temporary use of a site or route for nonutility purposes or for use in securing geological  
23 data, including any boring that is necessary to ascertain foundation conditions.

24 [(4)] (5) “Generating station” does not include:

25 (i) a generating unit or facility that:

26 1. is used for the production of electricity;

27 2. has the capacity to produce not more than 2 megawatts of  
28 alternating current; and

3. is installed with equipment that prevents the flow of  
4. electricity to the electric grid during time periods when the electric grid is out of service;

3 (ii) a combination of two or more generating units or facilities that:

7 2. are located on the same property or adjacent properties;

11 4. for each individual generating unit or facility:

15 C. does not export electricity for sale on the wholesale market  
16 under an agreement with PJM Interconnection, LLC;

17 (iii) a generating unit or facility that:

18 1. is used for the production of electricity for the purpose of:

(iv) a combination of two or more generating units or facilities that satisfy item (iii) of this paragraph.

6 [ (5) ] (6) (I) "GRID-ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY" MEANS  
7 HARDWARE OR SOFTWARE THAT INCREASES THE CAPACITY, EFFICIENCY, OR  
8 RELIABILITY OF EXISTING TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS.

9 (II) "GRID-ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY" INCLUDES:

10                           1. A SYSTEM THAT USES REAL-TIME OR FORECASTED  
11 WEATHER AND OPERATING CONDITIONS TO DETERMINE THE TRANSFER CAPACITY  
12 OF TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS;

22 (I) HAVE A SIMILAR DIAMETER AND WEIGHT AS TRADITIONAL  
23 ACSR CONDUCTORS:

24 (II) HAVE A DIRECT CURRENT ELECTRICAL RESISTANCE AT  
25 LEAST 10% LESS THAN TRADITIONAL ACSB CONDUCTORS;

26 (III) INCREASE THE POTENTIAL ENERGY CARRYING CAPACITY  
27 BY AT LEAST 75% COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL ACSR CONDUCTORS; AND

(IV) HAVE A COEFFICIENT OF THERMAL EXPANSION OF AT LEAST 30% LESS THAN TRADITIONAL ACSB CONDUCTORS

(ii) "Mined land" includes:

1. private ways and roads used for mining appurtenant to
- 2 any surface mining area;
- 3
4. land excavations;
5. workings; and
6. overburden.

20 (ii) For construction related to an existing overhead transmission  
21 line, the Commission may waive the requirement in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph for  
22 good cause.

27 1. is an electric company; or

31 (iv) AN APPLICANT FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC  
32 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVERHEAD  
33 TRANSMISSION LINE SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS APPLICATION:

1                   **1. EVIDENCE THAT THE APPLICANT CONSIDERED, AS**  
2                   **PART OF THE APPLICANT'S INTERNAL PLANNING PROCESS, ANY LOCAL, STATE, OR**  
3                   **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TRANSMISSION PLANNING PROCESSES AND ANY**  
4                   **TRANSMISSION PLANNING PROCESSES REQUIRED BY PJM INTERCONNECTION,**  
5                   **LLC, INCLUDING:**

6                   **A. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION**  
7                   **LINE;**

8                   **B. AN ANALYSIS OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION**  
9                   **TECHNOLOGIES AND WHETHER THE USE OF THE TECHNOLOGIES WILL ENHANCE**  
10                  **THE VALUE OF THE NEW LEAD LINE, LEADING TO INCREASED RATEPAYER VALUE**  
11                  **THROUGH EFFICIENCY AND AVOIDED COSTS;**

12                  **C. ALTERNATIVE ROUTINGS;**

13                  **D. TECHNOLOGIES OR MODIFICATIONS TO ONE OR MORE**  
14                  **ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS IN THE STATE THAT COULD AVOID THE NEED**  
15                  **FOR THE TRANSMISSION LINE;**

16                  **E. THE COST TO RATEPAYERS;**

17                  **F. RESOURCE ADEQUACY;**

18                  **G. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DEMAND RESPONSE;**

19                  **H. THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT;**

20                  **I. A REVIEW OF AN INTEGRATED ELECTRIC**  
21                  **TRANSMISSION–DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR THE**  
22                  **TRANSMISSION LINE; AND**

23                  **J. ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE COMMISSION**  
24                  **CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE; AND**

25                  **2. AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE**  
26                  **SELECTION, INCLUDING:**

27                  **A. RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COSTS ESTIMATES;**

28                  **B. COST CONTAINMENT EFFORTS;**

29                  **C. CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE;**

1                   **D. ACQUISITION OF LAND AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY;**2                   **E. OUTAGE COORDINATION; AND**3                   **F. THE APPLICANT'S EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH**  
4                   **COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS ON ROUTE CONSIDERATION.**

5                   **(v)** The Commission may not issue a certificate of public  
6 convenience and necessity for the construction of an overhead transmission line in the  
7 electric distribution service territory of an electric company to an applicant other than an  
8 electric company if:

9                   1. the overhead transmission line is to be located solely  
10 within the electric distribution service territory of that electric company; and

11                  2. the cost of the overhead transmission line is to be paid  
12 solely by that electric company and its ratepayers.

13                  **[(v)] (VI)** 1. This subparagraph applies to the construction of an  
14 overhead transmission line for which a certificate of public convenience and necessity is  
15 required under this section.

16                  2. On issuance of a certificate of public convenience and  
17 necessity for the construction of an overhead transmission line, a person may acquire by  
18 condemnation, in accordance with Title 12 of the Real Property Article, any property or  
19 right necessary for the construction or maintenance of the transmission line.

20                  **(f)** For the construction of an overhead transmission line, in addition to the  
21 considerations listed in subsection (e) of this section, the Commission shall:

22                  (1) take final action on an application for a certificate of public convenience  
23 and necessity only after due consideration of:

24                  (i) the need to meet existing and future demand for electric service;  
25                  [and]

26                  (ii) **EVIDENCE THAT ALTERNATIVES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED**  
27 **BY THE APPLICANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B)(3)(IV) OF THIS SECTION;**  
28 **AND**

29                  **(III)** for construction related to a new overhead transmission line, the  
30 alternative routes that the applicant considered, including the estimated capital and  
31 operating costs of each alternative route and a statement of the reason why the alternative  
32 route was rejected;

1 **7-207.6.**2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES” HAS  
3 THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE.4 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON OR  
5 BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026, AND EVERY 4 YEARS THEREAFTER, EACH OWNER OR  
6 OPERATOR OF AN OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE  
7 COMMISSION A REPORT THAT:8 (I) IDENTIFIES AREAS OF TRANSMISSION CONGESTION FOR  
9 THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 3 YEARS AND ANY REASONABLY FORESEEABLE  
10 TRANSMISSION CONGESTION ISSUES FOR THE 5 YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
11 THE DATE OF THE REPORT;12 (II) IDENTIFIES THE PROJECTED OR ACTUAL COST TO  
13 RATEPAYERS AS A RESULT OF PAST AND PROJECTED FUTURE TRANSMISSION  
14 CONGESTION;15 (III) IDENTIFIES THE FEASIBILITY AND COST OF USING  
16 ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF ADDRESSING TRANSMISSION CONGESTION, INCLUDING  
17 THE USE OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES;18 (IV) IDENTIFIES THE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL  
19 ISSUES POSED BY THE USE OF EACH ALTERNATIVE MEANS IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM  
20 (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; AND21 (V) IF FEASIBLE, PROPOSES AN ADVANCED TRANSMISSION  
22 TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO ADDRESS AREAS OF TRANSMISSION  
23 CONGESTION IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.24 (2) THE COMMISSION MAY MODIFY THE REPORTING SCHEDULE  
25 SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.26 (C) AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF AN OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE MAY  
27 USE ANY AVAILABLE DATA FROM PJM INTERCONNECTION, LLC, OR OTHER  
28 SOURCES IN COMPLETING THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 October 1, 2026.