



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 3, 2026

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 1210 - FIRST READER

SHORT TITLE: CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AND TRANSMISSION LINES - NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

This legislation creates new requirements for public service companies seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for new transmission lines. It mandates that applicants provide written notice by certified mail to all owners of land that would be crossed by the line, as well as to owners of adjacent land.

The bill also states that failure to provide proper notice could invalidate a CPCN. To ensure the completeness of certain CPCNs under this new law, the Department expects that this additional requirement will increase costs and review time, as staff will need to help validate outreach to impacted and adjacent landowners before the application is sent to the Public Service Commission (PSC).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) is responsible for reviewing CPCNs for transmission lines prior to the application being considered by the PSC. Traditionally, robust notice requirements are already folded into the CPCN process once it reaches the PSC. Current law and PSC regulations require applicants to provide notice to affected property owners, local governments, and other stakeholders.

This bill would duplicate these public notice requirements and mandate them as part of the initial application process and CPCN review.

BILL EXPLANATION

HB 1210 requires a person applying for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of any transmission line to provide certain notices to certain landowners. Additionally, the bill establishes that failure to provide this required notice would invalidate any related public hearing or, under certain circumstances, void the application for a CPCN entirely.

Contact: Lydia McPherson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-875-7785 (cell)