



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 40 - PUBLIC UTILITIES - TRANSMISSION LINES - ADVANCED TRANSMISSION
TECHNOLOGIES

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation
Committee,

Alternative transmission technologies (ATTs) are a suite of tools that can quickly and cost-effectively increase the capacity of the existing electrical grid without building new transmission lines. These typically encompass grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) — hardware and software solutions that can be deployed on the existing system and essentially act as energy efficiency for the grid — and advanced conductors. By increasing and optimizing the capacity of lines already in place, the grid can transmit more electricity without the lengthy planning and permitting process required for new transmission lines. Adding ATTs to lines being constructed, ensures that all new lines being built are as efficient as possible, thus decreasing the need for more lines and ensuring the best use of rate-payer dollars. While construction of new transmission lines will still be needed to support projected increased demand, ATTs ensure maximized efficiency from current and future grid investments. Thus, they merit consideration in grid planning processes, as now required by FERC Order 1920, as well as in the planning and permitting of specific transmission projects.

This bill will:

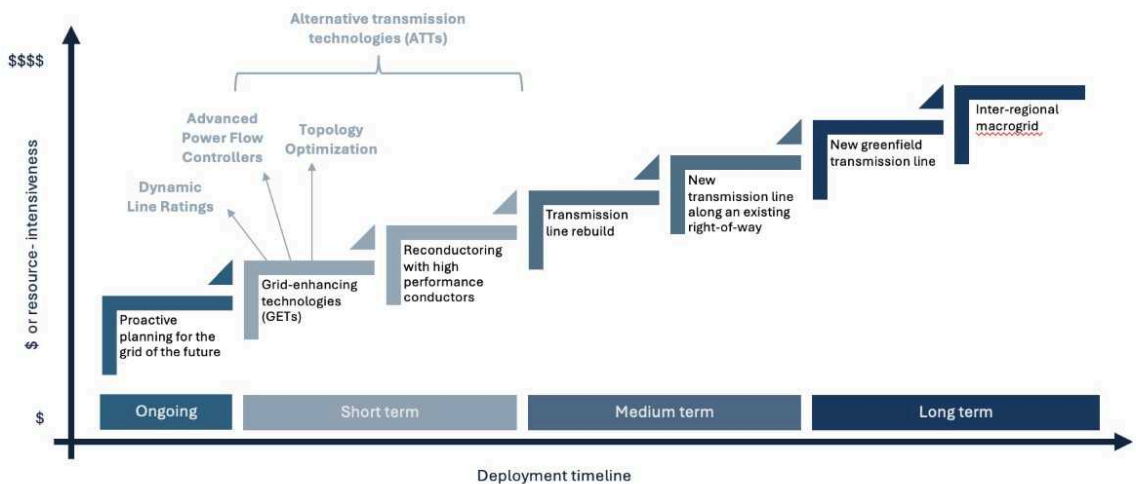
- ✓ Require transmission owners to identify areas of congestion over the past 3 years, identify areas that are expected to be experiencing congestion in the next 5 years, identify the potential increased cost to ratepayers as a result of that congestion, identify the technical feasibility and cost of installing ATTs to address congestion, and propose an implementation plan to install ATTs at such points.
- ✓ Require transmission developers who are seeking a Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity to demonstrate to the PSC how they considered ATTs in their transmission proposal.

Some examples of Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs):

- **Dynamic Line Ratings:** Measures the ambient conditions and temperature of a line to determine its real-time rated capacity. The capacity of lines can increase up to 50% in cold or windy conditions over the conservatively established static capacity rating.
- **Advanced Power Flow Control:** Hardware and software that can reroute power flows to optimize line utilization, avoiding overflows of electricity in some areas and underutilization in others.
- **Topology Optimization:** Software is used to track the best route and combination of lines for transferring power. The software can then proactively alter grid topology to better control power flows.
- **Advanced Reconductoring:** Replacing old conductors on existing transmission lines with new, higher-capacity conductors that can enhance the overall performance of the line.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 40.

We need *all* kinds of transmission solutions to realize a 21st century grid



*PROVIDED BY RMI