C5 5lr1266 CF SB 34

By: Delegates Guyton, Allen, Fair, Griffith, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, Kerr, Kipke, Lehman, Mangione, McComas, Miller, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Pippy, Rose, Ruth, Stonko, Tomlinson, and White Holland

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

AN ACT concerning

## A BILL ENTITLED

2 3	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Overhead Transmission Lines – Conservation Easements
4	FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to consider the impact of the
5	development of overhead transmission lines on certain properties subject to an
6	existing conservation easement in certain proceedings for a certificate of public
7	convenience and necessity; requiring the Commission to require an applicant for a
8	certificate of public convenience and necessity for the development of overhead
9	transmission lines to consider alternative routes for transmission lines affecting
10	conservation easements or alter proposed routes; and generally relating to
11	certificates of public convenience and necessity.
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- 12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 13 Article Public Utilities
- 14 Section 7–207(e)

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- 15 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
- 17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 18 Article Public Utilities
- 19 Section 7–207(f)
- 20 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 21 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
- 22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 24 Article Public Utilities

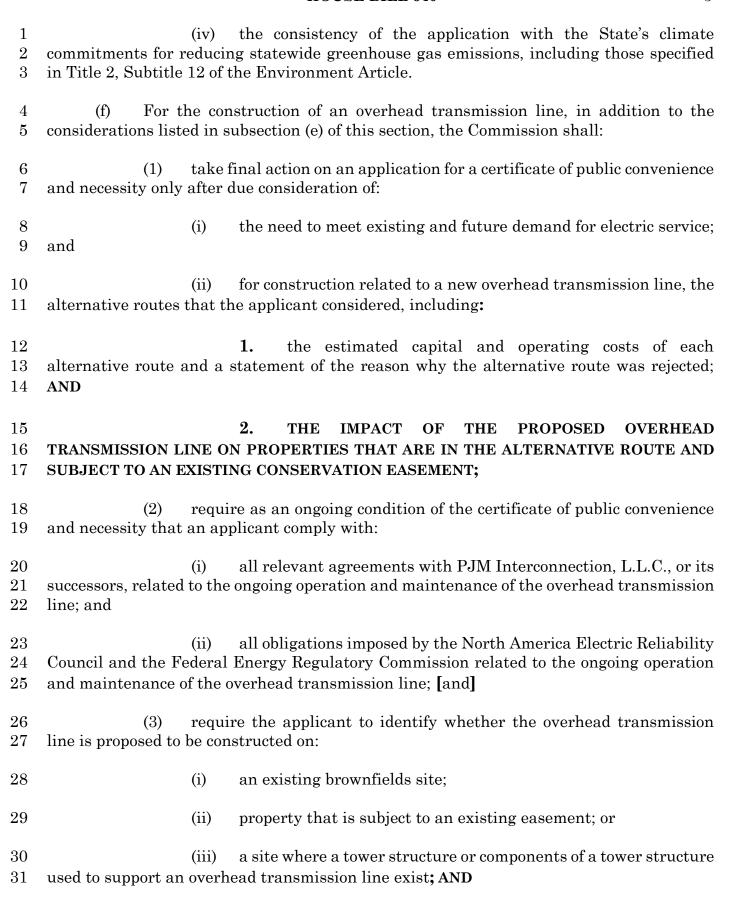
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1 7-207.2 The Commission shall take final action on an application for a certificate of 3 public convenience and necessity only after due consideration of: 4 the recommendation of the governing body of each county or municipal (1) 5 corporation in which any portion of the construction of the generating station, overhead transmission line, or qualified generator lead line is proposed to be located; 6 7 the effect of the generating station, overhead transmission line, or qualified generator lead line on: 8 9 the stability and reliability of the electric system; (i) 10 (ii) economics; 11 (iii) esthetics; 12 historic sites: (iv) aviation safety as determined by the Maryland Aviation 13 14 Administration and the administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration; 15 (vi) when applicable, air quality and water pollution; and 16 (vii) the availability of means for the required timely disposal of 17 wastes produced by any generating station; the effect of climate change on the generating station, overhead 18 19 transmission line, or qualified generator lead line based on the best available scientific 20 information recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and 21 **(4)** for a generating station: 22 the consistency of the application with the comprehensive plan 23and zoning of each county or municipal corporation where any portion of the generating station is proposed to be located: 2425 the efforts to resolve any issues presented by a county or (ii) municipal corporation where any portion of the generating station is proposed to be located: 26 27 (iii) the impact of the generating station on the quantity of annual 28 and long-term statewide greenhouse gas emissions, measured in the manner specified in §

2-1202 of the Environment Article and based on the best available scientific information

recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and



REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO:

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**(4)** 

1	<b>(I)</b>	MINIMIZE THE	IMPACT ON	PROPERTIES	THAT ARE I	N THE
2	PROPOSED OVERHEAD	TRANSMISSION	LINE ROUTE	AND SUBJEC	T TO AN EX	ISTING
3	CONSERVATION EASEM	ENT: OR				

- 4 (II) CHANGE THE PROPOSED OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE 5 ROUTE TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT ON PROPERTIES THAT ARE IN THE PROPOSED 6 ROUTE AND SUBJECT TO AN EXISTING CONSERVATION EASEMENT.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 8 October 1, 2025.