

House Study Bill 157 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON SODERBERG)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to hearings conducted with regard to petitions
2 for an electric transmission line franchise.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 478.4, Code 2011, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **478.4 Franchise — hearing.**

4 The utilities board shall consider the petition and any
5 objections filed to it in the manner provided. It shall
6 examine the proposed route or cause any engineer selected
7 by it to do so. If a hearing is held on the petition it may
8 hear testimony as may aid it in determining the propriety of
9 granting the franchise. The board may, in its reasonable
10 discretion upon its own motion or upon the motion of the
11 petitioner, and pursuant to procedures that the board
12 determines to be just and reasonable, order a separate
13 hearing and issue a separate decision on any issue or issues
14 to be heard in relation to the petition. It may grant the
15 franchise in whole or in part upon the terms, conditions, and
16 restrictions, and with the modifications as to location and
17 route as may seem to it just and proper. Before granting
18 the franchise, the utilities board shall make a finding that
19 the proposed line or lines are necessary to serve a public
20 use and represents a reasonable relationship to an overall
21 plan of transmitting electricity in the public interest. A
22 franchise shall not become effective until the petitioners
23 shall pay, or file an agreement to pay, all costs and expenses
24 of the franchise proceeding, whether or not objections are
25 filed, including costs of inspections or examinations of the
26 route, hearing, salaries, publishing of notice, and any other
27 expenses reasonably attributable to it. The funds received
28 for the costs and the expenses of the franchise proceeding
29 shall be remitted to the treasurer of state for deposit in the
30 department of commerce revolving fund created in section 546.12
31 as provided in section 476.10.

32 EXPLANATION

33 This bill relates to a hearing which may be conducted by
34 the Iowa utilities board upon the filing of a petition for
35 a franchise for a new electric transmission line. The bill

H.F. _____

1 states that the board may, in its reasonable discretion upon
2 its own motion or upon the motion of the petitioner, and
3 pursuant to procedures that the board determines to be just
4 and reasonable, order a separate hearing and issue a separate
5 decision on any issue or issues to be heard in relation to the
6 petition.