

**House File 241 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 241

BY THOMSON, ANDREWS, HAYES,  
THOMPSON, HENDERSON, SHIPLEY,  
DIEKEN, GOLDING, FISHER,  
GERHOLD, JENEARY, CISNEROS,  
FETT, HOLT, GEARHART, SMITH,  
WENGRYN, and LAWLER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to utilities commission member attendance at  
2 hearings and informational meetings.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 476.33, Code 2025, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. For hearings initiated under this  
4 chapter, all members of the commission shall be present during  
5 any live testimony. If at any point during live testimony at a  
6 hearing not all members are available for any reason, the meeting  
7 shall pause until all members of the commission return.

8 Sec. 2. Section 478.2, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2025,  
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 a. A member of the commission, the counsel of the commission,  
11 or a presiding officer designated by the commission shall serve  
12 as the presiding officer at each meeting, shall present an agenda  
13 for such meeting, which shall include a summary of the legal  
14 rights of the affected landowners, and shall distribute and  
15 review the statement of individual rights required under section  
16 6B.2A, subsection 1. At least one member of the commission  
17 shall attend each informational meeting. If at any point during  
18 the meeting no member of the commission is available for any  
19 reason, the meeting shall pause until at least one member of the  
20 commission returns. A formal record of the meeting shall not be  
21 required.

22 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **478.34 Hearing — commission member**  
23 **attendance.**

24 All hearings initiated under this chapter shall follow the  
25 attendance rules governing commission members as provided in  
26 section 476.33, subsection 5.

27 Sec. 4. Section 479.5, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code 2025,  
28 is amended to read as follows:

29 a. A pipeline company shall hold informational meetings in  
30 each county in which real property or property rights will be  
31 affected at least thirty days prior to filing the petition for a  
32 new pipeline. A member of the commission or a person designated  
33 by the commission shall serve as the presiding officer at each  
34 meeting, shall present an agenda for the meeting, which shall  
35 include a summary of the legal rights of the affected landowners,

1 and shall distribute and review the statement of individual  
2 rights required under section 6B.2A. At least one member of the  
3 commission shall attend each informational meeting. If at any  
4 point during the meeting no member of the commission is available  
5 for any reason, the meeting shall pause until at least one member  
6 of the commission returns. A formal record of the meeting shall  
7 not be required.

8 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **479.50 Hearing — commission member**  
9 **attendance.**

10 All hearings initiated under this chapter shall follow the  
11 attendance rules governing commission members as provided in  
12 section 476.33, subsection 5.

13 Sec. 6. Section 479B.4, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 3. The pipeline company shall hold informational meetings  
16 in each county in which real property or property rights will  
17 be affected at least thirty days prior to filing the petition  
18 for a new pipeline. A member of the commission, or a person  
19 designated by the commission, shall serve as the presiding  
20 officer at each meeting and present an agenda for the meeting,  
21 which shall include a summary of the legal rights of the affected  
22 landowners. At least one member of the commission shall attend  
23 each informational meeting. If at any point during the meeting  
24 no member of the commission is available for any reason, the  
25 meeting shall pause until at least one member of the commission  
26 returns. No formal record of the meeting shall be required. The  
27 meeting shall be held at a location reasonably accessible to all  
28 persons who may be affected by granting the permit.

29 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. **479B.34 Hearing — commission member**  
30 **attendance.**

31 All hearings initiated under this chapter shall follow the  
32 attendance rules governing commission members as provided in  
33 section 476.33, subsection 5.

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1                   the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2       This bill relates to utilities commission member attendance at  
3 hearings and informational meetings.

4       The bill requires all members of the commission to be present  
5 for hearings related to public utility regulation or electric  
6 transmission lines, pipelines, or hazardous liquid pipelines  
7 regulated by the commission. The bill requires the hearings  
8 to pause if at any point during the meeting a member of the  
9 commission is not available for any reason and the hearing shall  
10 not resume until all members return.

11       The bill requires at least one member of the commission to  
12 be present for an informational meeting regarding the issuance  
13 of an electric transmission line franchise, a pipeline permit,  
14 or a hazardous liquid pipeline permit. The bill requires the  
15 informational meeting to pause if at any point during the meeting  
16 no member of the commission is available for any reason and the  
17 meeting shall not resume until at least one member returns.