

**House File 2583 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2583  
BY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 737)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to emergency planning and coordination for  
2 electric transmission line owners, and providing penalties.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **478.34 Electric transmission**  
2 **emergency planning and coordination.**

3 1. For purposes of this section:

4 a. "*Electric transmission line*" means a high-voltage electric  
5 transmission line with a capacity of two hundred kilovolts or  
6 more that has been approved for construction on or after July  
7 1, 2022, for construction in a federally registered planning  
8 authority transmission plan with costs allocated regionally.

9 b. "*Electric transmission line owner*" means an individual or  
10 entity that owns and maintains an electric transmission line.

11 c. "*Proclaimed disaster emergency*" means a state of disaster  
12 emergency proclaimed by the governor pursuant to section 29C.6.

13 2. a. An electric transmission line owner or electric  
14 utility shall independently develop an emergency response plan  
15 and submit the plan to the commission. The plan shall contain at  
16 least all of the following information:

17 (1) The name, title, and twenty-four-hour contact information  
18 of at least two designated individuals with the authority to  
19 coordinate and direct the electric transmission line owner's  
20 emergency response and restoration efforts. Each electric  
21 transmission line owner shall notify the commission of any change  
22 to this contact information within twenty-four hours of the  
23 change occurring.

24 (2) Procedures for notifying state and local emergency  
25 management agencies and neighboring utilities during a service  
26 interruption.

27 (3) Strategies for the staging and mobilization of personnel,  
28 equipment, and materials for expeditious restoration.

29 (4) A summary of mutual aid arrangements with other entities  
30 for supplemental repair crews and equipment.

31 (5) A methodology for prioritizing the restoration of service  
32 to essential facilities, including hospitals, water treatment  
33 plants, and public safety communications.

34 b. An electric transmission line owner or electric utility  
35 shall submit an initial emergency response plan to the commission

1 by December 31, 2026. Updated plans shall be submitted annually  
2 thereafter, or within thirty days of a material change, in the  
3 form and manner prescribed by the commission.

4 c. An emergency response plan or information submitted  
5 pursuant to this section shall be considered a confidential  
6 record and shall be kept confidential, as provided in section  
7 22.7, subsection 50. The records shall not be subject to  
8 disclosure, except as necessary for the coordination of emergency  
9 response and restoration efforts between authorized state and  
10 utility personnel.

11 3. a. An electric transmission line owner or electric  
12 utility shall notify the commission in the form and manner  
13 prescribed by the commission when it is projected that an outage  
14 may result in a loss of service for more than six hours, provided  
15 the outage meets the criteria for a significant interruption, as  
16 defined by commission rule. Notification shall be made at the  
17 earliest possible time after the determination and shall include  
18 all of the following:

- 19 (1) The general nature and cause of the interruption.
- 20 (2) The geographic area affected.
- 21 (3) A preliminary assessment of the extent of damage.
- 22 (4) The estimated time for restoration.

23 b. The notice required under paragraph "a" shall be  
24 supplemented as more complete or accurate information becomes  
25 available, including updates to the estimated restoration time.

26 4. In the event of an actual or imminent proclaimed  
27 disaster emergency, the electric transmission line owners shall  
28 coordinate operational responses with each other and with  
29 electric utilities, as necessary, for repair and restoration to  
30 occur in an expeditious and orderly manner, and shall provide  
31 the commission and the department of homeland security and  
32 emergency management with information as requested to facilitate  
33 state-level emergency response decision making and assistance.

34 5. An electric transmission line owner that violates any  
35 provision of this section or any rule adopted pursuant to this

1 section is subject to a civil penalty, which may be levied by the  
2 commission, of not more than one hundred dollars per violation or  
3 one thousand dollars per day of a continuing violation, whichever  
4 is greater.

5 EXPLANATION

6 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
7 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8 This bill relates to emergency planning and coordination for  
9 electric transmission line owners.

10 The bill requires each electric transmission line owner  
11 or electric utility to independently develop an emergency  
12 response plan and submit the plan to the Iowa utilities  
13 commission (commission). The plan must include two designated  
14 emergency contacts with 24-hour contact information, procedures  
15 for notifying state and local emergency management agencies and  
16 neighboring utilities during service interruptions, strategies  
17 for staging and mobilization, a summary of mutual aid  
18 arrangements, and a methodology for prioritizing restoration  
19 of service to essential facilities. An initial plan must  
20 be submitted by December 31, 2026, and updated plans must be  
21 submitted annually thereafter or within 30 days of a material  
22 change.

23 The bill provides that emergency response plans and related  
24 information submitted to the commission are confidential records  
25 and are not subject to disclosure, except as necessary to  
26 coordinate emergency response and restoration efforts among  
27 authorized state and utility personnel.

28 The bill requires an electric transmission line owner or  
29 electric utility to notify the commission when it is projected  
30 that an outage meeting certain criteria will result in a loss  
31 of service for more than six hours. The notice must be made  
32 as early as possible and must include the general nature and  
33 cause of the interruption, the geographic area affected, a  
34 preliminary assessment of the damage, and an estimated time for  
35 restoration, with updates provided as more accurate information

1 becomes available.

2 The bill further requires, in the event of an actual or  
3 imminent proclaimed disaster emergency, electric transmission  
4 line owners to coordinate operational responses with one another  
5 and with electric utilities to ensure expeditious and orderly  
6 repair and restoration, and provide information to the commission  
7 and the department of homeland security and emergency management  
8 as requested to support state-level emergency response.

9 Finally, the bill authorizes the commission to levy a civil  
10 penalty against an electric transmission line owner that violates  
11 the bill or rules adopted under it, in an amount of not more than  
12 \$100 per violation or \$1,000 per day for a continuing violation,  
13 whichever is greater.

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