

House File 790 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 790
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 241)

(COMPANION TO SF 224 BY SALMON)

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.