

House Study Bill 737 - Introduced

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

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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