

Senate File 2214 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2214
BY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3063)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the installation of transmission lines on
2 highway rights-of-way.

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

1 Section 1. Section 306.47, Code 2026, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. Upon written request by a utility
4 infrastructure owner, the department shall engage in
5 coordination activities with a utility or transmission line
6 developer to review highway corridors identified in the request
7 for potential locations to place transmission lines. The
8 department shall assign a project coordinator within thirty
9 days of receiving the written request. The department shall
10 share all known plans with affected utility or transmission
11 line developers on planned future projects in the highway
12 corridor if the planned highway project impacts the placement
13 or siting of transmission lines.

14 Sec. 2. Section 306A.3, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 2. a. The state department of transportation shall
17 adopt rules, pursuant to [chapter 17A](#), embodying a utility
18 accommodation policy which imposes reasonable restrictions
19 on placements, occurring on or after the effective date
20 of the rules, on primary road rights-of-way. The rules
21 may require utilities to give notice to the department
22 prior to installation of a utility system on a primary road
23 right-of-way and obtain prior permission from the department
24 for the proposed installation. Upon written request by a
25 utility infrastructure owner, longitudinal transmission line
26 installations may be installed on a primary road right-of-way,
27 including on an interstate road right-of-way, unless the
28 department determines such an installation would endanger
29 public safety or interfere with the proper function and public
30 use of the highway. The rules ~~shall~~ must recognize emergency
31 situations and the need for immediate installation of service
32 extensions subject to the standards adopted by the department
33 and the utilities commission. The rules shall not be ~~no~~
34 less stringent than the standards adopted by the utilities
35 commission pursuant to [chapters 478](#), [479](#), and [479B](#). This

1 subsection shall not be construed as granting the department
2 authority which has been expressly granted to the utilities
3 commission to determine the route of utility installations.
4 If the department requires a utility company permit, the
5 department shall ~~be required to~~ act upon the permit application
6 within thirty days of its filing. In cases of federal-aid
7 highway projects on nonprimary highways, the local authority
8 with jurisdiction over the highway and the department shall
9 comply with all federal regulations and statutes regarding
10 utility accommodation.

11 b. If the department denies an installation of a
12 longitudinal transmission line on a primary road right-of-way,
13 including on an interstate road right-of-way, the department
14 shall make the reason for the denial available to the public
15 within ninety days.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 This bill relates to the installation of transmission lines
20 on highway rights-of-way.

21 Under current law, the general assembly encourages proactive
22 coordination between the department of transportation (DOT),
23 local governments, utility companies, and other affected
24 parties to minimize costs and avoid relocating utilities
25 during highway construction. Affected parties are invited
26 to participate in development meetings. However, failure
27 to participate during the design phase does not prevent a
28 construction project from moving forward. The bill requires
29 the DOT, upon written request by a utility infrastructure
30 owner, to engage in coordination activities with a utility
31 or transmission line developer to review highway corridors
32 identified in the request for potential locations to place
33 transmission lines. The DOT must share all known plans with
34 affected utility or transmission line developers on planned
35 future projects in the highway corridor if the planned highway

S.F. 2214

1 project impacts the placement or siting of transmission lines.
2 Under current law, the DOT is required to adopt
3 administrative rules embodying a utility accommodation
4 policy imposing reasonable restrictions on utility line
5 placements on primary road rights-of-way. The bill authorizes
6 longitudinal transmission line installations to be installed
7 on a primary road right-of-way, upon written request by a
8 utility infrastructure owner, unless the DOT determines such
9 an installation would endanger public safety or interfere with
10 the proper function and use of the highway. The DOT must make
11 the reason for denying the installation of a longitudinal
12 transmission line available to the public within 90 days.