

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Galizio, Gilliam, Holvey, Thatcher, Witt, Read
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Barbara Allen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/9, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds criteria for siting a utility facility in an area zoned exclusively for farm use by requiring utility provider to make a reasonable effort to locate utility transmission and distribution lines so they have the least practical impact on the farming operation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Adequately compensating farmers and forest land owners for a utility siting
- Need for a fair mitigation process
- Dangers of siting power lines on farmland because of low-flying crop dusters hitting lines
- Agricultural land taken out of production because of utility siting
- Damage to irrigation systems in erecting utility structures
- Potential buyers' reluctance to purchase farmland which may have a utility siting
- Difficulties of power providers siting utility facility on public lands and how to rectify those difficulties

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: It is common for utility providers to site facilities on rural lands to meet their urban customers' power needs because of lower land costs and fewer land owners to contract with. Utilities are required to consider siting their facilities within existing rights-of-way but are not required to do so.