

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Jenson, Nolan, Read, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jerry Watson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines ‘high-value farmland’ and ‘transmission line.’ Requires utility provider to consult with the owners of high-value farmland after receiving the appropriate siting permits and prior to installing a transmission line in order to site the line in a manner that minimizes the impact on farming operations.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of proposed amendment
- Manner in which farmers have been treated in past by utilities siting on their property
- Whether the option of condemnation should be eliminated (Utilities have the option to use condemnation in order to site utility lines)
- Wind turbine location siting generally goes smoothly, but siting transmission line from the turbine to location of use has been problematic
- Timing of consultation with landowners as proposed in amendments may improve communication.
- Importance of term ‘consult’ in amendment
- Utilities are under pressure to find new sources of power, some of which are found in rural areas

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. Siting facilities on agricultural land may interfere with use of the property by the landowner. Utilities must consider siting their facilities within existing rights-of-way but are not required to do so.