

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Edwards, Girod, Monroe, Thomsen, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Starr
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides conditions under which associated transmission lines are necessary for service to the public. Requires approval by county governing body or its designee in siting of associated transmission lines if specific conditions are met. Adds associated transmission lines to acceptable uses in exclusive farm use zones.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Goal of minimizing impacts to farmland where possible

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Renewable energy projects, such as wind and solar generation facilities, can be placed in or near land zoned for exclusive farm use (EFU). This placement can cause a problem when seeking to connect the generation facility to the electrical grid by generation tie-lines (also known as associated lines), as EFU-zoned areas have a narrower range of acceptable land uses.

House Bill 2704-A creates an incentive for placement of associated lines either in existing corridors or rights of way. It also provides conditions for the siting of associated lines on high-value farmland if there is no available reasonable alternative site. The measure also requires an applicant requesting to site an associated line on high-value farmland to present findings on how the applicant will mitigate the negative impacts to the farmland and to farm practices.