

ASSEMBLY, No. 3323

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GREGORY P. MCGUCKIN

District 10 (Ocean)

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District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Directs BPU to study whether State's electric distribution system meets certain standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning electric distribution system reliability
2 standards.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. The Board of Public Utilities shall study and prepare and
8 submit, within six months of the effective date of P.L. , c.
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to the Governor and,
10 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
11 Legislature, a written report which shall make findings which shall
12 include the board's determination of whether the State's electric
13 distribution system is maintained and operated by the electric public
14 utilities in a manner that meets standards adopted by the board, and
15 an assessment of the reliability State's electric distribution system
16 in consideration of other applicable standards. The board's report
17 shall also provide recommendations for improvements in reliability
18 to the State's electric distribution system.

19 b. In conducting the study, the board shall:

20 (1) assess each electric public utility's compliance with the
21 standards adopted by the board pursuant to (a) R.S.48:2-23
22 authorizing the board to adopt standards requiring that electric
23 public utilities furnish safe, adequate, and proper service, (b)
24 section 57 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-96) requiring the board to
25 adopt standards for the inspection, maintenance, repair, and
26 replacement of the distribution equipment and facilities of electric
27 public utilities and standards for the operation, reliability, and
28 safety of such equipment and facilities during periods of emergency
29 or disaster, and (c) any other law, rule, regulation, or order
30 concerning the reliability of the electric distribution system in this
31 State; and

32 (2) conduct an assessment of the reliability of the State's
33 electric distribution system in consideration of other applicable
34 standards to include (a) a comparison of the performance of this
35 State's distribution system as compared to that of other states, (b)
36 an assessment of electric public utility restoration efforts in
37 response to severe weather events and natural disasters, (c) the
38 capability of the categories of utility poles located in the State to
39 support distribution infrastructure during severe weather events and
40 natural disasters, and (d) the implementation of applicable
41 requirements of the National Electrical Code, the National
42 Electrical Safety Code, the American National Standards Institute,
43 and other applicable national and international standards with
44 respect to the State's electric distribution infrastructure.

45 c. For the purposes of this section:

46 "electric distribution system" means that portion of an electric
47 system which delivers electricity from transformation points on the

1 transmission system to points of connection at the premises of
2 electric public utility customers; and

3 “electric public utility” means a public utility, as that term is
4 defined in R.S.48:2-13, that transmits and distributes electricity to
5 end users within this State.

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7 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
8 submission of the report required pursuant to section 1 of P.L. ,
9 c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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12 STATEMENT

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14 This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to study and
15 prepare and submit, within six months of the effective date of the
16 bill, to the Governor and Legislature, a written report which is to
17 make findings which are to include the BPU’s determination of
18 whether the State’s electric distribution system is maintained and
19 operated by the electric public utilities in a manner that meets BPU
20 standards and an assessment of the reliability State’s electric
21 distribution system through an application of other applicable
22 standards. The BPU is also directed to provide recommendations
23 to improve reliability.

24 In conducting the study, the BPU is directed to:

25 (1) assess each electric public utility’s compliance with the
26 standards adopted by the BPU pursuant to statute requiring that
27 electric public utilities (a) furnish safe, adequate, and proper
28 service, and (b) comply with standards concerning the inspection,
29 maintenance, repair, and replacement of the distribution equipment
30 and facilities of electric public utilities and standards for the
31 operation, reliability, and safety of that equipment and facilities
32 during periods of emergency or disaster, and (c) any other law, rule,
33 regulation, or order concerning the reliability New Jersey’s electric
34 distribution system; and

35 (2) conduct an assessment of the reliability of the State’s
36 electric distribution system in consideration of other applicable
37 standards to include (a) a comparison of the performance of this
38 State’s distribution system as compared to that of other states, (b)
39 an assessment of electric public utility restoration efforts in
40 response to severe weather events and natural disasters, (c) the
41 capability of the categories of utility poles located in the State to
42 support distribution infrastructure during severe weather events and
43 natural disasters, and (d) the implementation of applicable
44 requirements of the National Electrical Code, the National
45 Electrical Safety Code, the American National Standards Institute,
46 and other applicable national and international standards with
47 respect to the New Jersey’s electric distribution infrastructure.