

SENATE, No. 1120

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes requirements for newly installed and replacement electric utility poles and transmission towers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning electric public utility infrastructure standards
2 and amending P.L.1999, c.23.

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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. Section 57 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-96) shall be amended
8 to read as follows:

9 57. a. The Board of Public Utilities shall adopt, pursuant to the
10 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
11 seq.), standards for the inspection, maintenance, repair and
12 replacement of the distribution and transmission equipment and
13 facilities of electric public utilities. The standards may be
14 prescriptive standards, performance standards, or both, and shall
15 provide for high quality, safe, and reliable service. The board shall
16 also adopt standards for the operation, reliability, and safety of such
17 equipment and facilities during periods of emergency or disaster.
18 The standards shall require, at a minimum, that: (1) electric public
19 utilities installing new or replacement electric distribution utility
20 poles shall use the highest class of wood electric distribution utility
21 poles; and (2) consistent with federal law and applicable federal
22 reliability requirements, electric public utilities installing new or
23 replacement transmission towers shall use towers constructed of the
24 highest class or grade of material, as appropriate. An electric public
25 utility may install new or replacement electric distribution utility
26 poles constructed of a material other than wood provided that such
27 material shall be of the highest class or grade.

28 The board shall adopt a schedule of penalties for violations of
29 these standards adopted pursuant to this section.

30 b. In adopting standards pursuant to this section, the board
31 shall consider cost, local geography and weather, applicable
32 industry codes, national electric industry practices, sound
33 engineering judgment, and past experience. The board shall
34 reference applicable national electrical standards in its classification
35 of electric distribution utility poles and transmission towers.

36 c. The board shall require each electric public utility to report
37 annually on its compliance with the standards adopted pursuant to
38 this section, and the utility shall make these reports available to the
39 public.

40 (cf: P.L.1999, c.23, s.57)

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42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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47 This bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to adopt

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 standards to require that electric public utilities installing new or
2 replacement electric distribution utility poles install the highest
3 class of wood poles. The bill provides that the utilities may install
4 poles constructed of a material other than wood provided that any
5 such material of the highest class or grade, as appropriate.

6 The bill also requires that the BPU adopt standards, consistent
7 with federal law, concerning the installation of new or replacement
8 transmission towers. The standards require that the utilities install
9 towers constructed of the highest class or grade of material, as
10 appropriate.

11 The BPU is directed to reference applicable national electrical
12 standards in its classification of electric distribution utility poles
13 and transmission towers.