
HOUSE BILL 2401

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris and B. Sullivan

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Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing regional compacts for siting
2 transmission lines; adding new sections to chapter 80.50 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
6 create a regional process for siting of new transmission lines that
7 cross state borders in order to encourage neighboring states to act
8 regionally when proposing new transmission projects. This regional
9 process will facilitate the siting of new cross borders electrical
10 transmission lines by providing a "one stop" licensing process. This
11 act calls for the creation of an interstate body to govern the
12 agreement and activities between the states.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 80.50 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 A multistate council must be established by compact and be made up
16 of at least three adjoining states, including Washington. The
17 multistate council must coordinate and oversee the process of siting

1 transmission lines that cross state borders as permitted by the
2 national energy policy act of 2005.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 80.50 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The multistate electrical transmission siting council may review,
6 certify, and permit siting of transmission facilities, including
7 facilities in national interest electric transmission corridors that
8 are not on property owned by the United States.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 80.50 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 The multistate electrical transmission siting council will:
12 Specify the conditions of construction and operation; issue permits in
13 lieu of any other individual state or local agency authority; and
14 manage the environmental and safety oversight programs of transmission
15 line operations.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 80.50 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 The multistate electrical transmission siting council consists of
19 a chair and councilmembers. The chair must be nominated by the
20 councilmembers from amongst their membership, and be approved by the
21 governors of each participating state. Councilmembers must be
22 representatives from the following state agencies or their equivalent
23 from each participating state: The department of ecology; the
24 department of fish and wildlife; the department of natural resources;
25 the department of community, trade, and economic development; and the
26 utilities and transportation commission.

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