

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 12-0824.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

HOUSE BILL 12-1312

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sonnenberg, Levy

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Brophy and Johnston,

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House Committees  
Transportation

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF LAND USE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY  
102 LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES FROM THE PUBLIC UTILITIES  
103 COMMISSION'S PROPER SCOPE OF REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO  
104 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND  
105 NECESSITY FOR TRANSMISSION LINES.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill clarifies that the public utilities commission, in

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

determining whether or not to grant a certificate of public convenience and necessity for proposed electric transmission lines and associated facilities not constructed in the ordinary course of business, shall not consider land use issues such as the location or alignment of the proposed lines and associated facilities because a local government can address the land use considerations through its land use regulations.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** The general assembly  
3 declares that the construction of new electric transmission lines and  
4 associated facilities is necessary to promote the development of electric  
5 generation resources, Colorado's energy security, and the state's long-term  
6 economic growth. Various state and local government processes control  
7 the approval, siting, and permitting of electric transmission lines,  
8 including the requirement that a public utility obtain a certificate of public  
9 convenience and necessity from the public utilities commission for lines  
10 and facilities not constructed in the ordinary course of business. To ensure  
11 the efficient and timely application of such processes, individual, state,  
12 and local interests should be heard and considered in the appropriate  
13 forum. It is, therefore, in the state's interest to clarify the proper scope of  
14 review by the public utilities commission in connection with applications  
15 for certificates of public convenience and necessity for new construction  
16 or extension of electric transmission lines and associated facilities.

17           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 40-5-101 as  
18 follows:

19           **40-5-101. New construction - extension - compliance with local**  
20 **zoning rules.** (1) (a) ~~No~~ A public utility shall NOT begin the construction  
21 of a new facility, plant, or system or ~~of any~~ THE extension of its facility,  
22 plant, or system without first ~~having obtained~~ OBTAINING from the

1 commission a certificate that the present or future public convenience and  
2 necessity require, or will require, ~~such~~ THE construction OR EXTENSION.  
3 FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), THE PRESENT OR FUTURE PUBLIC  
4 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CONSIDERATION OF  
5 LAND USE RIGHTS OR SITING ISSUES RELATED TO THE LOCATION OR  
6 ALIGNMENT OF THE PROPOSED ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES OR  
7 ASSOCIATED FACILITIES, WHICH ISSUES ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF  
8 A LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S LAND USE REGULATION. Sections 40-5-101 to  
9 40-5-104 ~~shall not be construed to~~ DO NOT require ~~any~~ A corporation to  
10 secure ~~such~~ A certificate for THE FOLLOWING:

11 (I) An extension within any city and county, ~~or~~ city, or town  
12 within which it has ~~theretofore~~ ALREADY lawfully commenced operations;  
13 ~~or for~~

14 (II) An extension into territory, either within or ~~without~~ OUTSIDE  
15 OF a city and county, ~~or~~ city, or town, contiguous to its facility, line, plant,  
16 or system and not ~~theretofore~~ ALREADY served by a public utility  
17 providing the same commodity or service; or ~~for~~

18 (III) An extension within or to territory already served by ~~it~~ THE  
19 CORPORATION, AS IS necessary in the ordinary course of its business.

20 (b) If ~~any~~ A public utility, in constructing or extending its line,  
21 plant, or system, interferes, or is about to interfere, with the operation of  
22 the line, plant, or system of any other public utility already constructed,  
23 the commission, ~~on~~ UPON complaint of the public utility claiming to be  
24 injuriously affected, after hearing, may ~~make such order prohibiting such~~  
25 PROHIBIT THE construction or ~~extensions~~ EXTENSION, or ~~prescribing such~~  
26 PRESCRIBE JUST AND REASONABLE terms and conditions for the location  
27 of the lines, plants, or systems affected. ~~as to it may seem just and~~

1 reasonable.

2 (2) Whenever the commission, after a hearing upon its own  
3 motion or upon complaint, finds that there is or will be a duplication of  
4 service by public utilities in any area, the commission ~~shall, in its~~  
5 ~~discretion,~~ MAY issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity  
6 assigning specific territories to one or to each of said utilities, or, by  
7 certificate of public convenience and necessity, ~~to~~ otherwise define the  
8 conditions of rendering service and constructing extensions within ~~said~~  
9 ~~THOSE~~ territories and ~~shall, in its discretion,~~ MAY order the elimination of  
10 ~~said~~ THE duplication. ~~upon such terms as are just and reasonable, having~~  
11 ~~due regard to due process of law and to all the rights of the respective~~  
12 ~~parties and to public convenience and necessity.~~

13 (3) Except as otherwise provided in section 29-20-108, C.R.S., ~~on~~  
14 ~~or after August 8, 2005,~~ no A public utility shall NOT construct or install  
15 any A new facility, plant, or system within the territorial boundaries of  
16 any A local government unless the construction or installation complies  
17 with the LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S zoning rules, resolutions, or ordinances.  
18 ~~of the local government applicable to the property on which the facility,~~  
19 ~~plant, or system is to be constructed or installed.~~ Nothing in this  
20 subsection (3) ~~shall be construed to prohibit~~ PROHIBITS a local  
21 government from granting a variance from its zoning rules, resolutions,  
22 or ordinances for such uses of the property. Nothing in this subsection (3)  
23 ~~shall be construed to grant~~ GRANTS the commission any additional  
24 authority to restrict a siting application. For purposes of this subsection  
25 ~~(3)~~ SECTION, "local government" ~~shall mean~~ MEANS a county, home rule  
26 or statutory city, town, territorial charter city, or city and county.

27 (4) (a) A public utility ~~shall be~~ IS entitled to recover, through a

1 separate rate adjustment clause, the costs that it prudently incurs in  
2 planning, developing, and completing the construction or expansion of  
3 transmission facilities for which the utility has been granted a certificate  
4 of public convenience and necessity, or for which the commission has  
5 determined that no certificate of public convenience and necessity is  
6 required. The transmission rate adjustment clause ~~shall be~~ IS subject to  
7 annual changes, which ~~shall be~~ ARE effective on January 1 of each year.

8 (b) To provide additional encouragement to utilities to pursue the  
9 construction and expansion of transmission facilities, the commission  
10 shall approve current recovery by the utility through the annual rate  
11 adjustment clause of the utility's weighted average cost of capital,  
12 including its most recently authorized rate of return on equity, on the total  
13 balance of construction work in progress related to such transmission  
14 facilities as of the end of the immediately preceding year. The rate  
15 adjustment clause shall be reduced to the extent that the prudently  
16 incurred costs being recovered through the adjustment clause have been  
17 included in the public utility's base rates as a result of the commission's  
18 final order in a rate case.

19 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
21 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.