



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**STATE**  
**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Note:** This fiscal note is provided pursuant to Joint Rule 22(b)(2), and reflects strike-below Amendment L.001.

---

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 11-0434	<b>Date:</b> February 16, 2011
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Sen. Johnston Rep. Levy	<b>Bill Status:</b> Senate Agriculture
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Marc Carey (303-866-4102)

---

**TITLE:** CONCERNING A STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR SECURING GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL FOR THE SITING OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
<b>State Revenue</b>		
Cash Funds		
Electric Power Transmission Task Force Cash Fund	\$40,000	\$0
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
Cash Funds		
Electric Power Transmission Task Force Cash Fund	\$40,000	\$0
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012:</b> See State Appropriations section.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, *as amended by L.001*, creates the 16-member Task Force on Statewide Transmission Siting and Permitting, and specifies its membership. Members of the task force must be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of the bill. The task force is required to hold at least 4 public meetings, solicit comments from members of the public, and report on its findings, including the adoption of any recommended statutory changes to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 31, 2011. At a minimum, the task force is required to consider comments on:

- an inventory and evaluation of Colorado's current siting and permitting framework for electric transmission facilities;
- whether Colorado's electric power transmission infrastructure is capable of meeting and exceeding Colorado's existing renewable energy standard (RES) requirements;
- whether Colorado's current transmission siting and permitting framework presents a barrier to developing a transmission infrastructure to meet Colorado's RES;
- how other states approach siting and permitting of transmission facilities, and identification of possible models for improving Colorado's process;

- actions to streamline siting and permitting processes for transmission facilities; and
- the advantages and disadvantages of a statewide transmission siting and permitting framework, including political considerations.

The bill authorizes the task force to accept gifts, grants, and donations, but specifies that the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) is not required to solicit such moneys on behalf of the task force. If by July 1, 2011, sufficient moneys have not been raised to cover task force expenses, the task force is disbanded and the GEO must return any contributions. The bill repeals December 31, 2011.

### **State Revenue**

The bill authorizes the GEO to accept private gifts, grants and donations for the purpose of providing support to the task force. Any money received is held in the Electric Power Transmission Task Force Cash Fund. Moneys in the fund are to be appropriated by the General Assembly to the GEO to support task force efforts. Any unexpended revenue remaining in the fund as of January 1, 2012 will revert to the General Fund.

At this time, it is anticipated that about \$40,000 will be needed to support task force activities. The GEO has \$25,000 of State Energy Planning Fund through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Other donations from stakeholders, totaling \$10,000 to \$20,000 will be solicited.

### **State Expenditures**

*Governor's Energy Office.* This bill is assessed as having a conditional fiscal impact of \$40,000 in FY 2011-12. The bill requires the director of GEO, as a member of the task force, to convene the task force and authorizes the director to contract with a mediator or other third party to facilitate accomplishment of the task force's duties. The contracted mediator will be responsible for:

- facilitating each of the required 4 public meetings;
- ensuring that the task force takes testimony on each of the required topics in the bill, and that an appropriate opportunity for public comment is provided; and
- synthesizing the information from the testimony and public comment received into the report to be delivered to the Governor and the General Assembly.

### **State Appropriations**

In FY 2011-12, the bill requires a cash funds appropriation of \$40,000 from the Electric Power Transmission Task Force Cash Fund to the Governor's Energy Office.

### **Departments Contacted**

Regulatory Agencies

Judicial Branch