89R19444 CXP-F

By:  King H.B. No. 144

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 144:

By:  McQueeney C.S.H.B. No. 144

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to plans for the management and inspection of transmission and distribution poles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  The heading to Subchapter E, Chapter 38, Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE [~~REPORT~~]

SECTION 2.  Subchapter E, Chapter 38, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 38.103 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.103.  TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION POLE PLAN. (a) Each electric cooperative, electric utility, and municipally owned utility that distributes electric energy to the public shall submit to the commission a plan for the management and inspection of transmission and distribution poles in the entity's transmission and distribution system.

(b)  Each plan submitted under Subsection (a) must include:

(1)  a statement of the plan's scope and objectives;

(2)  the roles, responsibilities, and accountability of individuals responsible for overseeing and executing the plan;

(3)  a description of the cooperative's or utility's processes for:

(A)  the management, repair, and inspection of transmission and distribution poles on the entity's transmission and distribution system;

(B)  the training and certifying of personnel, including third-party vendors, who inspect and repair transmission and distribution poles; and

(C)  the documentation of and response to a report or complaint made by a landowner regarding the condition or repair of transmission or distribution poles;

(4)  for each transmission and distribution pole to be inspected:

(A)  a deadline by which the inspection will be completed;

(B)  a process by which inspection records will be submitted; and

(C)  a timeline for any remedial action required for a pole identified as unreliable, unsafe, or needing repair; and

(5)  a proposed budget for implementing the plan.

(c)  The commission shall approve, modify, or reject a plan submitted to the commission under Subsection (a) not later than the 180th day after the date the plan is submitted.

(d)  Except as provided by Subsection (e), at least once every three years, an entity to which this section applies shall submit an update to the commission detailing the entity's compliance with the plan's objectives, the costs of implementing the plan, and the entity's inspection results and repair schedule. An electric utility may submit the update in a report required under Section 38.101.

(e)  At least once each month, an entity to which this section applies shall submit an update to the commission of the information described by Subsection (b)(4). An update must include for each transmission and distribution pole inspected an indication of whether the pole passed inspection and was determined to be safe, reliable, and able to withstand extreme weather conditions, including high winds.

SECTION 3.  Not later than January 1, 2026, each entity to which Section 38.103, Utilities Code, as added by this Act, applies shall submit the plan required by that section to the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.