

By: Schwertner

S.B. No. 1665

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Public Utility Commission of Texas on the feasibility of constructing certain extra high voltage transmission lines.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 39.1671 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.1671. STUDY OF CONSTRUCTION OF 765-KILOVOLT TRANSMISSION LINE. (a) The commission may not approve the construction of a 765-kilovolt transmission line for the execution of the Permian Basin Reliability Plan (Project 55718) as recommended in the Texas 765-kilovolt Strategic Transmission Expansion Plan submitted by the independent organization certified under Section 39.151 for the ERCOT power region unless the commission first conducts a study to consider:

(1) the performance of extra high voltage transmission lines under a variety of dispatch scenarios, including different times of day, times of year, and weather conditions;

(2) estimated costs to ratepayers, with a particular emphasis on the estimated costs to residential customers;

(3) factors that may contribute to cost overruns and potential mitigation of cost overruns; and

(4) supply chain and workforce limitations that may delay project buildout or contribute to cost overruns.

1        (b) Subject to Subsection (c), the commission shall submit  
2 the results of the study conducted under Subsection (a) to an  
3 independent third party for review.

4        (c) The commission may not submit the results of the study  
5 to a third party that conducted a similar study of extra high  
6 voltage transmission lines on behalf of the independent  
7 organization certified under Section 39.151 for the ERCOT power  
8 region or another market participant after January 1, 2020.

9        (d) This section expires September 1, 2029.

10       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.