

A-Engrossed House Bill 3336

Ordered by the Senate May 28
Including Senate Amendments dated May 28

Sponsored by Representative GAMBA; Representatives ANDERSEN, DIEHL, HELM, NERON, WRIGHT, Senators GOLDEN, SOLLMAN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act makes power companies file plans with the PUC to use grid enhancing tech. Simplifies the local review of the tech. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.2).

[Digest: Makes a power company file with the PUC a plan for using grid enhancing technologies where doing so is cost-effective. Requires the plan to be updated every two years. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.8).]

Declares a state policy regarding the electric transmission system.

Requires an electric company to file with the Public Utility Commission a strategic plan for using grid enhancing technologies where doing so is cost-effective. Requires the plan to be updated *[every two years]* **with the integrated resource plan**. Requires an electric *[company to carry out the electric]* company's first filed strategic plan **to identify which actions can be carried out** not later than January 1, 2030.

Requires an electric company to conduct a cost-effectiveness and timetable analysis of multiple strategies when proposing additions, improvements or modifications to a transmission system.

Requires local governments to review certain applications for the use of grid enhancing technology in an existing right-of-way or easement without holding a hearing and through the application of only clear and objective criteria.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to electric transmission systems; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Advanced reconductoring" means reconductoring with a conductor that has a direct current electrical resistance at least 10 percent lower than existing conductors of a similar diameter while simultaneously increasing the energy carrying capacity by at least 75 percent and includes carbon fiber or composite core conductors and superconductors.

(b) "Electric company" means an electric company as defined in ORS 757.600, that owns and operates a transmission system and sells more than 2 million megawatt hours of electricity in a calendar year.

(c) "Grid enhancing technology" includes any hardware or software technology that enhances the performance or improves performance efficiency of a transmission system including, but not limited to, dynamic line rating, advanced power flow control technology, topology optimization, advanced reconductoring, flexible alternating current transmission systems or energy storage when used as a transmission resource.

(2) The Legislative Assembly declares that it is the policy of this state that electric companies:

(a) Meet the required clean energy targets set forth in ORS 469A.410;

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- (b) Develop sufficient resources to meet load growth;
- (c) Reduce wildfire risk;
- (d) Create efficiencies and resilience in the transmission system; and
- (e) Maintain energy affordability.

(3) When an electric company files a resource or grid investment plan with the Public Utility Commission proposing additions, improvements or modifications to a transmission system, the commission shall require the electric company to conduct an analysis of alternatives to determine the cost-effectiveness and timetable of multiple strategies, including strategies that use grid enhancing technologies, to:

- (a) Increase transmission capacity;
- (b) Increase transmission reliability;
- (c) Reduce transmission system congestion;
- (d) Reduce curtailment of renewable and nonemitting energy resources; and
- (e) Increase capacity to connect new renewable and nonemitting energy resources.

(4) An electric company shall file and include as part of the electric company's clean energy plan required under ORS 469A.415, and the electric company's integrated resource plan filed with the commission, a separate section that provides a strategic plan for using grid enhancing technologies where doing so is cost-effective. The electric company shall update the strategic plan concurrently with the development of, or update to, each integrated resource plan and make the strategic plan publicly available. At a minimum, the strategic plan must:

- (a) Include a timeline for deploying grid enhancing technologies where doing so is cost-effective;
- (b) Report on the electric company's continual progress towards implementing the strategic plan; and
- (c) Be designed to:
 - (A) Increase transmission capacity;
 - (B) Increase transmission reliability;
 - (C) Reduce transmission system congestion;
 - (D) Reduce curtailment of renewable and nonemitting energy resources; and
 - (E) Increase capacity to connect new renewable and nonemitting energy resources.

(5) For purposes of this section, the commission shall define "cost-effective" and establish criteria for determining where using grid enhancing technologies is cost-effective.

SECTION 2. An electric company's first strategic plan filed under section 1 (4) of this 2025 Act shall identify both short term actions that can reasonably be carried out no later than January 1, 2030, and longer term actions.

SECTION 3. The requirements under section 1 of this 2025 Act apply to an electric company's clean energy plan or integrated resource plan that is filed with the Public Utility Commission on or after the effective date of this 2025 Act.

SECTION 4. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Electric company" means an electric company, as defined in ORS 757.600, that owns and operates a transmission system and sells more than 2 million megawatt hours of electricity in a calendar year.

(b) "Footprint" means an area that is being actively managed and is part of a right-of-way of an existing transmission line.

1 (c) "Transmission line" means any aboveground or underground electric transmission
2 lines with a capacity of 57,000 volts or more, including the utility poles, supports, tunnels,
3 manholes, vaults, conduits, pipes, wires, conductors, guys, stubs, platforms, crossarms,
4 braces, transformers, insulators, cutouts, switches, capacitors, meters, communication cir-
5 cuits, appliances, attachments and appurtenances and all related facilities required for the
6 acceptance of electric services by the transmission lines.

7 (2) A decision on an application for an upgrade to an existing transmission line that is
8 owned by an electric company shall be made, as provided in this section, by a local govern-
9 ment with jurisdiction over the transmission line, provided that the upgrade:

10 (a) Is sited entirely within the existing transmission line's utility right-of-way or private
11 easement;

12 (b) Entails only the deployment, construction or installation of grid enhancing technolo-
13 gies, as defined in section 1 of this 2025 Act, and associated modifications as required to meet
14 current national electrical safety standards such as the National Electrical Safety Code, and
15 not any other type of upgrade, expansion or improvement;

16 (c) Does not expand the footprint of any part of the transmission lines if sited within an
17 area designated for a statewide land use planning goal related to natural resources, scenic
18 and historic areas and open spaces or the Willamette River Greenway; and

19 (d) Does not include:

20 (A) Adding additional transmission lines or substations; or

21 (B) Modifications to substations or transformers unless they are within the footprint of
22 the original substation or transformer.

23 (3) A decision on an application, as provided in this section, including a decision that
24 determines whether the provisions of subsection (2) of this section apply:

25 (a) May be subject only to clear and objective standards, conditions and procedures;

26 (b) May be conditioned upon obtaining any necessary approvals by the State Department
27 of Energy or federal government;

28 (c) Is not a land use decision, as defined in ORS 197.015;

29 (d) May not be subject to a public hearing; and

30 (e) May not be appealed except by writ of review under ORS 34.010 to 34.100.

31 **SECTION 5.** Section 4 of this 2025 Act does not apply to any upgrade to a transmission
32 line for which an application was filed with a local government on or before the effective date
33 of this 2025 Act.

34 **SECTION 6.** This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025
35 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
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