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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Utilities
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 15, 2023
Subject: Bill Brief - Senate Bill 166

Senate Bill 166 would amend K.S.A. 66-1,178 relating to the issuance of electric transmission line siting permits by the Kansas corporation commission. Current law requires an electric utility to apply to the KCC and obtain a siting permit before site preparation, construction or use of eminent domain for the construction of an electric transmission line. The statutory transmission line siting process before the KCC applies to any electric transmission line greater than 230 kV that is at least 5 miles in length.

Current law provides that an application must specify the proposed location, the names and addresses of landowners within 660 feet of the proposed line and any other information required by the KCC. Once a transmission line siting application is filed, the KCC is required to hold a public hearing on the matter in one of the affected counties within 90 days following the filing of such application. The KCC must then determine the necessity and reasonableness of the proposed location of the line and consider the benefits to consumers both inside and outside of Kansas and economic development benefits. Within 120 days following the filing of an application, the KCC must either deny the permit or issue the permit and may impose conditions on the permit if such conditions are just and reasonable and protect the rights of interested parties and the public.

SB 166 would require the KCC to disclose and allow public inspection of any transmission line siting application filed with the KCC, including any application that was filed on or before July 1, 2023.