

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Utilities
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 26, 2025
Subject: House Bill 2040 – As introduced

House bill 2040 would extend the deadline for the Kansas corporation commission (KCC) to issue a final order upon a transmission line siting application. Currently, K.S.A. 66-1,178 requires the KCC to issue a final order on a transmission line siting application 120 days following receipt of such application. HB 2040 would extend such deadline to 180 days.

Overview of the KCC's Transmission Line Siting Authority

State law grants KCC authority over the siting of high-voltage transmission line projects when such proposed transmission line is 230 kV or more and 5 miles or more in length.¹ A public utility is required to apply for and obtain a transmission line siting permit from the KCC before the public utility can begin site preparation for and construction of the proposed transmission line.

State law requires the KCC to conduct a public hearing on a transmission line siting application not less than 90 days following receipt of such application to determine the necessity for and reasonableness of the proposed location of the transmission line. When making a decision on the necessity for and reasonableness of the project, the KCC is required to consider the benefit to consumers in Kansas, consumers outside the state and economic development benefits in Kansas.

Current statute requires the KCC to issue a final order on any such application within 120 days following receipt of the application. The KCC is authorized to impose additional conditions on any approved permit to protect the rights of interested parties and the general public.

¹ K.S.A. 66-1,177 et seq.