

HB 1805 -- COLLOCATION OF TRANSMISSION LINES

SPONSOR: Haffner

This bill specifies that when an electrical corporation seeks approval from the Public Service Commission for the construction of electric transmission facilities, the commission can consider collocation with, parallel to, or along existing rights of way in its review of the application. In addition, if the facilities will be sited with or along or will replace or upgrade existing above-ground infrastructure that is not owned by the entity applying to construct the facilities, the entity must obtain independent real estate rights necessary for the installation and operation of the new facilities. The commission shall have the authority to grant allow or require, with just compensation, joint-use or collocation of new transmission facilities on existing rights of way.

A property owner that is the subject of an electrical transmission project is entitled to just compensation regardless of whether there is an existing right of way. For eminent domain proceedings involving any agricultural or horticultural property by an electrical corporation, municipally owned electric utility, rural electric cooperative or investor-owned electric utility, just compensation is an amount to 150% of fair market value.