

HB 145 - AS INTRODUCED

2017 SESSION

17-0150

06/10

HOUSE BILL ***145***

AN ACT requiring municipal approval for siting high voltage transmission lines.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burton, Straf. 6; Rep. Massimilla, Graf. 1; Rep. Horrigan, Straf. 6; Rep. Bailey, Graf. 14; Rep. Suzanne Smith, Graf. 8; Rep. Spang, Straf. 6; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

 This bill prohibits high voltage transmission lines from being located in any municipality without a vote of approval by the municipality.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen

AN ACT requiring municipal approval for siting high voltage transmission lines.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Subdivision; High Voltage Transmission Line Siting. Amend RSA 47 by inserting after
2 section 28 the following new subdivision:

3 High Voltage Transmission Line Siting

4 47:29 Local Option for High Voltage Transmission Line Siting in Cities. Notwithstanding the
5 provisions of any other law, high voltage transmission lines shall not be located in any city without
6 a vote of approval by one of the procedures specified in paragraphs I, II, or III.

7 I. A site plan for high voltage transmission lines may be approved by a 2/3 vote of the entire
8 governing body of any city.

9 II. If the governing body of a city should vote to place the question of whether or not to
10 approve the location of high voltage transmission lines in said city on the ballot for referendum, it
11 may place said question on the ballot to be voted upon at any regular municipal or biennial election,
12 or at a special election called for the purpose of voting on said question. Such special election shall
13 be held at the usual ward polling places by the regular city election officers. Should a referendum be
14 held, the following question shall be placed on the ballot: "Shall high voltage transmission lines be
15 permitted within the city of (?)" Said question shall be printed in the form prescribed by
16 RSA 656:13. If a majority of those voting on the question shall vote in the affirmative, then such
17 approval shall be deemed granted and the governing body of the city shall be bound by the outcome.
18 If a majority of those voting on the question shall vote in the negative, such approval shall be
19 deemed not granted and no high voltage transmission lines may be located in such city unless
20 approval is subsequently granted in accordance with this paragraph or paragraph III.

21 III. Upon submission to the governing body of a city of a petition signed by at least 10
22 percent of the registered voters of said city requesting a referendum on the question of whether or
23 not high voltage transmission lines should be located in said city, the governing body shall direct
24 that such question appear on the ballot at the next regular municipal or biennial election. If said
25 petition is submitted at any time prior to 2 months before the next regular municipal or biennial
26 election, the governing body shall direct that a special election be called. The election procedure and
27 the form of the question shall be as provided in paragraph II. If a majority of those voting on the
28 question shall vote in the affirmative, then such approval shall be deemed granted and the
29 governing body of the city shall be bound by the outcome. If a majority of those voting on the
30 question shall vote in the negative, such approval shall be deemed not granted and no high voltage
31 transmission lines may be located in such city unless approval is subsequently granted in

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1 accordance with this paragraph or paragraph II.

2 IV. Nothing in this section shall be construed as changing, modifying, or affecting in any
3 way the provisions of Title LXIV relating to zoning regulations.

4 2 New Subdivision; High Voltage Transmission Line Siting. Amend RSA 31 by inserting after
5 section 149 the following new subdivision:

6 High Voltage Transmission Line Siting

7 31:150 Local Option for High Voltage Transmission Line Siting in Towns. Notwithstanding the
8 provisions of any other law, high voltage transmission lines shall not be located in any town without
9 a vote of approval of a majority of the voters present and voting on the question at an annual
10 meeting or a special town meeting called for such purpose. All votes on the question shall be taken
11 by written ballot. The following question shall be placed on the ballot "Shall high voltage
12 transmission lines be permitted within the town of ()?" Said question shall be printed in the form
13 prescribed by RSA 656:13. If a majority of those voting on the question shall vote in the affirmative,
14 approval of the location of high voltage transmission lines in the town shall be deemed granted. If a
15 majority of those voting on the question shall vote in the negative, such approval shall be deemed
16 not granted and no high voltage transmission lines may be located in such town unless approval is
17 subsequently granted in accord with this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed as
18 changing, modifying, or affecting in any way the provisions of Title LXIV relating to zoning
19 regulations.

20 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.