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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2704

03/04/2014 Authored by Anderson, S., The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; regulating siting of certain transmission lines; amending Laws
1.3 2013, chapter 57, section 2.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Laws 2013, chapter 57, section 2, is amended to read:

1.6 Sec. 2. TRANSMISSION LINE; CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIRED
1.7 AND EVIDENCE REQUIRED.

1.8 (a) A high-voltage transmission line with a capacity of 100 kilovolts or more proposed
1.9 to be located within a city in the metropolitan area as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
1.10 section 473.121, subdivision 2, for which a route permit application was filed between
1.11 June 2011 and August 2011, and a certificate of need application was filed between June
1.12 2012 and August 2012, to rebuild approximately eight miles of 69 kilovolt transmission
1.13 with a high-voltage transmission line to meet local area distribution needs, must be
1.14 approved in a certificate of need proceeding conducted under Minnesota Statutes, section
1.15 216B.243. The certificate of need may be approved only if the commission finds by clear
1.16 and convincing evidence that there is no feasible and available distribution level alternative
1.17 to the transmission line. In making its findings the commission shall consider the factors
1.18 provided in applicable law and rules including, without limitation, cost-effectiveness,
1.19 energy conservation, and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality.

1.20 (b) Further proceedings regarding the routing of a high-voltage transmission line
1.21 described in this section shall be suspended until the Public Utilities Commission has
1.22 made a determination that the transmission line is needed.

1.23 (c) If an application for a certificate of need described in paragraph (a) is withdrawn
1.24 or otherwise abandoned, this section shall apply to any high-voltage transmission line of

2.1 100 kilovolts or more proposed to meet the same needs as the line described in paragraph
2.2 (a) and that follows a route that is similar to that of the line subject to paragraph (a). In
2.3 addition, a certificate of need for a line subject to this paragraph is not effective until
2.4 30 days following the adjournment of the regular legislative session next following
2.5 commission approval of the certificate of need.

2.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.