

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** S.F. 1537                      **DATE:** April 20, 2010  
**Version:** First unofficial engrossment  
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**Subject:** Need for high-voltage transmission line  
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### Section

- 1        Urban transmission line; certificate of need required.** Provides that a high-voltage transmission line that meets the specified conditions must receive a certificate of need from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission prior to construction.
  
- 2        Neighborhood energy reduction report.**
  - Subd. 1. Report.** Requires submission of a report to the legislature by February 15, 2011, that contains the following information regarding the area through which the high-voltage transmission line described in section 1 will pass:
    - projections of energy savings that can be realized through investments in energy efficient technologies, energy storage projects, and smart-grid applications;
    - projections of energy that can be generated through distributed generation projects, including solar photovoltaic devices, located in the area; and
    - the cost per unit of energy saved or generated.
  
  - Subd. 2. Community steering committee.** Requires establishment of a community steering committee representative of residents and institutions in the affected area to provide input to the report. Requires maximum participation by area residents and institutions in recommending ideas to be included in the report.
  
  - Subd. 3. Energy savings.** Specifies that the utility serving the project area may apply energy savings resulting from implementing recommendations made in the report to its energy-savings goal of 1.5 percent of retail sales annually.
  
  - Subd. 4. Certificate of need process.** Provides that contested case hearings under the certificate of need process required by section 1 may not begin until April 1, 2011.

**3**      **Appropriation and transfer.** Appropriates \$307,000 onetime, to the commissioner of commerce for the certificate of need process, \$34,000 of which must be transferred to the Public Utilities Commission for its work under that process.

Appropriates \$100,000 onetime, to the commissioner of commerce for the neighborhood energy reduction study and report.