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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
From: Nick Myers, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 19, 2019
Subject: House Bill 2317

House Bill 2317 would amend Kansas law regarding electric transmission line siting procedures. Generally, the bill would subject lines defined as "urban electric transmission lines" to the current statutory requirements for the siting of certain electric transmission lines as defined in K.S.A. 66-1,177.

Current law, K.S.A. 66-1,177 through 66-1,183, provides statutory procedures that must be followed prior to the siting of certain electric transmission lines. These statutory procedures apply to 230 kilovolt or more electric transmission lines that are at least five miles in length. Prior to the siting of any such line, an electric utility is required to file an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission to obtain a siting permit. The KCC must hold a public hearing on the application. Such hearing is required to be held in a county through which the line is proposed to traverse. After the conclusion of the hearing, the KCC is required to determine the necessity and the reasonableness of the location of the proposed electric transmission line and consider the benefit to consumers in and out of Kansas and the economic development benefits in Kansas. The KCC may issue, withhold or set conditions upon the issuance of permit to best protect the rights of all interested parties and those of the public.

HB 2317 would subject certain "urban electric transmission lines" to the same procedural requirements for the siting of 230kv electric transmission lines that are 5 miles or more. "Urban electric transmission line" would mean any line that is located within the corporate limits of a city and that is at least ¼ of a mile in length and designed for the transfer of 69 kilovolts or more of electricity. In addition to consideration of consumers in and out of Kansas and the economic

development benefits in Kansas, HB 2317 would also require the KCC to consider the local aesthetics, location, environment and population density when making a decision on any transmission line siting application.