

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the criteria and policies used by
 2 the State Corporation Commission in evaluating the feasibility of undergrounding transmission
 3 lines in the Commonwealth. Report.

4 WHEREAS, it is the duty of the State Corporation Commission to consider environmental,
 5 economic, and service reliability factors in issuing certificates of public convenience for the construction
 6 of electrical transmission lines; and

7 WHEREAS, the relative environmental, economic, and service reliability factors considered by
 8 the State Corporation Commission vary with respect to the proximity of the transmission lines to
 9 densely populated areas; and

10 WHEREAS, the long-term implications of placing overhead transmission lines near densely
 11 populated areas must be carefully evaluated; and

12 WHEREAS, the costs of constructing overhead transmission may impact tax revenue, economic
 13 development, and property values in the immediate area of the transmission lines; and

14 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public to provide for the least costly alternative in
 15 constructing electrical transmission lines; and

16 WHEREAS, the process of undergrounding transmission lines may mitigate many of the
 17 detrimental effects arising from the construction and location of overhead transmission lines; and

18 WHEREAS, the process of undergrounding transmission lines is not widely practiced in the
 19 Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit
 21 and Review Commission be directed to study the criteria and policies used by the State Corporation
 22 Commission in determining when it is appropriate and economically feasible to issue a certificate of
 23 public convenience requiring the undergrounding of electrical transmission lines.

24 In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall examine (i)
25 the factors considered by the State Corporation Commission in its analysis of the feasibility of installing
26 underground electrical transmission lines; (ii) the effect on property values resulting from installing
27 underground, as opposed to overhead, electrical transmission lines; (iii) the construction and long-term
28 operating costs considered by the State Corporation Commission in reviewing electrical transmission
29 line applications; and (iv) such other issues as it deems appropriate.

30 The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings by November
31 30, 2006, and the Chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive
32 summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2007 Regular Session of
33 the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Commission intends to submit to
34 the Governor and the General Assembly a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as
35 a document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the
36 Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and
37 shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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