

**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 cost of constructing overhead transmission lines includes diminished tax  
13 revenue resulting from reduced economic development and reduced property values in the immediate  
14 area of the transmission lines; and

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

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

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

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

