

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 56-597 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; construction of*
3 *certain electrical transmission lines; advanced conductors.*

4 [H 1822]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 56-597 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 56-597. Definitions.**

9 As used in this chapter:

10 "Advanced conductors" means *high-temperature low-sag* hardware technology that can conduct
11 electricity across transmission lines and that demonstrates enhanced performance over traditional conductor
12 products. "Advanced conductors" includes *aluminum conductor composite core, aluminum conductor steel*
13 *supported, aluminum conductor composite reinforced, thermal-resistant aluminum alloy conductor, and any*
14 *similar technologies.*

15 "Affiliate" means a person that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with an electric
16 utility.

17 "Electric utility" means any investor-owned public utility that provides electric energy for use by retail
18 customers, except investor-owned utilities subject to the provisions of § 56-585.8.

19 "Grid-enhancing technologies" means a set of technologies that maximize the transmission of electricity
20 across the electric distribution grid in a manner that ensures grid reliability and safeguards the cybersecurity
21 and physical security of the electric distribution grid, including storage as a transmission asset, dynamic line
22 rating, power flow control, and topology optimization.

23 "Integrated resource plan" or "IRP" means a document developed by an electric utility that provides a
24 forecast of its load obligations and a plan to meet those obligations by supply side and demand side resources
25 over the ensuing 15 years to promote reasonable prices, reliable service, energy independence, and
26 environmental responsibility.

27 "Retail customer" means any person that purchases retail electric energy for its own consumption at one
28 or more metering points or non-metered points of delivery located in the Commonwealth.

29 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2026.**

30 **3. That in making any determination regarding need, corridor, route, or method of installation as it**
31 **relates to applications filed pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia for the construction of any**
32 **electrical transmission line of 138 kilovolts or more, the State Corporation Commission shall consider**
33 **the prudence of using advanced conductors, as defined in § 56-597 of the Code of Virginia, as amended**
34 **by this act.**

ENROLLED

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