



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5610

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Rep. Curtis J. Tarver, II

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Powering Up Illinois Act. Provides that an electrical corporation which operates in the State shall upgrade the State's electrical distribution systems in order to achieve the State's decarbonization standards. Provides that an electrical corporation shall be adequately staffed and recruit, train, and retain further staff as needed. Provides that the Illinois Commerce Commission shall establish reasonable average and maximum target energization time periods. Provides that the Commission shall establish requirements for an electrical corporation to report to the Commission, at least annually, to track and improve electrical corporation performance. Provides that the Commission shall require an electrical corporation to establish a dedicated electrification team. Sets forth requirements for an electrical corporation to consider when engaging in the annual distribution planning process. Provides that, in its site evaluation and design process, the Commission shall require an electrical corporation to consider flexible interconnection to defer or mitigate energization-related grid upgrades, but, if the solutions cannot defer or mitigate an upgrade, the corporation may evaluate traditional system upgrades. Provides that an electrical corporation may recover costs. Effective immediately.

LRB103 38958 CES 69095 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Powering Up Illinois Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Electrification" means any new use of electricity,  
8 expanded use of electricity, or change in use of electricity,  
9 including, but not limited to, in the industrial, commercial,  
10 agricultural, housing, or transportation sectors.

11 "Energization" and "energize" means connecting new  
12 customers to the electrical grid, establishing adequate  
13 electrical capacity to provide service for a new customer, or  
14 upgrading electrical capacity to provide upgraded service to  
15 an existing customer. The terms "energization" and "energize"  
16 do not include activities related to connecting electricity  
17 supply resources.

18 "Energization time period" means the elapsed time  
19 beginning when the electrical corporation receives a  
20 substantially complete energization project application and  
21 ending when the electric service is installed and energized.

22 Section 10. Findings. The General Assembly finds and

1 declares all of the following:

2 (1) It is the policy of the State to increase the use  
3 of electric vehicles in the State to 1,000,000 by 2030.  
4 That expanded infrastructure investment will help Illinois  
5 more rapidly decarbonize the transportation sector.  
6 Widespread use of electric vehicles and charging equipment  
7 has the potential to provide customers with fuel cost  
8 savings and provide electric utility customers with  
9 cost-saving benefits. Widespread use of electric vehicles  
10 stimulates innovation, competition, and increased choices  
11 in charging equipment and networks and also attracts  
12 private capital investments and creates high-quality jobs  
13 in Illinois. Accelerating the adoption of electric  
14 vehicles will drive the decarbonization of Illinois'  
15 transportation sector. To meet these goals and federal,  
16 State, regional, and local air quality and decarbonization  
17 standards, plans, and regulations, a large increase in  
18 both the quantity of electricity used and the functions  
19 for which electricity will be used is needed.

20 (2) To meet these decarbonization goals as well as  
21 federal, State, regional, and local air quality and  
22 decarbonization standards, plans, and regulations, the  
23 State's electrical distribution systems must be  
24 substantially upgraded, new customers must promptly  
25 connect to the electrical distribution system, and  
26 existing customers must have their service level promptly

1 upgraded.

2 (3) There are many reports of large housing  
3 developments that are unable to be promptly energized. The  
4 State has an urgent need to increase its supply of  
5 housing, requiring both new electrical distribution  
6 capacity and the prompt energization of new housing.

7 (4) There are many reports of individual customers who  
8 are unable to have their electrical service promptly  
9 upgraded or energized and charging stations for  
10 light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles and  
11 off-road vehicles, vessels, trains, and equipment that are  
12 unable to be promptly energized. These delays may inhibit  
13 the State's ability to meet its decarbonization goals and  
14 federal, State, regional, and local air quality and  
15 decarbonization standards, plans, and regulations.

16 (5) To improve the speed at which energization and  
17 service upgrades are performed, electrical corporations  
18 that distribute electricity must do both of the following:

19 (A) improve their advance planning, engineering,  
20 and construction of increased distribution and  
21 transmission system capacity; and

22 (B) preorder transformers, switchgear, and other  
23 needed equipment.

24 (6) Electrifying transportation and buildings can put  
25 downward pressure on rates by spreading fixed costs over  
26 more kilowatt-hours of usage.

1           (7) Delays in energization, including service  
2 upgrades, are costly both to the customers awaiting  
3 service and to other customers who are deprived of the  
4 downward pressure on rates.

5           (8) To carry out the planning, engineering, and  
6 construction of electrical distribution systems needed to  
7 promptly serve customers, electrical corporations that  
8 distribute electricity must recruit, train, and retain an  
9 adequately sized, qualified workforce.

10          (9) The Illinois Commerce Commission shall establish  
11 target deadlines for utilities that distribute electricity  
12 to energize new customers and upgrade the service of  
13 existing customers.

14          (10) The Illinois Commerce Commission shall establish  
15 reporting requirements for electrical corporations that  
16 distribute electricity to report the extent to which they  
17 comply with the target deadlines and the reasons for any  
18 noncompliance.

19          Section 15. Electrical distribution system upgrades. An  
20 electrical corporation that operates within the State shall:

21           (1) upgrade the State's electrical distribution  
22 systems as needed and in time to achieve the State's  
23 decarbonization goals, and implement federal, State,  
24 regional, and local air quality and decarbonization  
25 standards, plans, and regulations;

1           (2) comply with the obligation of the electrical  
2 corporation to serve by conducting sufficient advance  
3 planning, engineering, and construction of increased  
4 distribution of system capacity and by preordering  
5 transformers and other needed equipment so that customers  
6 can be energized without substantial delay;

7           (3) promptly energize new customers, including by  
8 ensuring that new housing, new businesses, and new  
9 charging for light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty  
10 vehicles and off-road vehicles, vessels, trains, and  
11 equipment can be used without delay caused by a failure of  
12 the utility to implement energization projects;

13           (4) promptly upgrade service when needed by customers;  
14 and

15           (5) recruit, train, and retain an adequately sized and  
16 qualified workforce to carry out the planning,  
17 engineering, and construction of electrical distribution  
18 systems needed to promptly serve customers seeking  
19 energization and service upgrades without sacrificing  
20 other necessary activities of the workforce.

21 Section 20. Illinois Commerce Commission requirements.

22           (a) On or before 180 days after the effective date of this  
23 Act, the Illinois Commerce Commission shall:

24           (1) Establish reasonable average and maximum target  
25 energization time periods. The targets shall ensure that

1 work is completed in a manner that minimizes delay in  
2 meeting the date requested by the customer for completion  
3 of the project to the greatest extent possible and  
4 prioritizes work in a manner consistent with Sections 10  
5 and 15 of this Act. The targets may vary depending on the  
6 complexity and magnitude of the work required and  
7 uncertainties regarding the readiness of the customer  
8 project needing energization. The targets may also  
9 recognize any factors beyond the electrical corporation's  
10 control.

11 (2) Establish requirements for an electrical  
12 corporation to report to the Illinois Commerce Commission,  
13 at least annually, in order to track and improve  
14 electrical corporation performance. The report shall  
15 include the average, median, and standard deviation time  
16 between receiving an application for energizing the  
17 electrical service, explanations for energization time  
18 periods that exceed the target maximum for energization  
19 projects, constraints, and obstacles to each type of  
20 energization, including, but not limited to, funding  
21 limitations, qualified staffing availability, or equipment  
22 availability, and any other information requested by the  
23 Illinois Commerce Commission.

24 (3) Establish a procedure for customers to report  
25 energization delays to the Illinois Commerce Commission.

26 (b) If energization time periods exceed the Commission's

1 target averages, or if the electrical corporation has a  
2 substantial number of energization projects that exceed the  
3 Commission's target maximums, the electrical corporation shall  
4 include in its report pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection  
5 (a) a strategy for meeting the targets in the future. The  
6 Commission may request modification of the electrical  
7 corporation's strategy to ensure that the electrical  
8 corporation meets targets promptly and consistent with the  
9 policies set forth in Section 10.

10 (c) Data reported by electrical corporations shall be  
11 anonymized or averaged data to the extent necessary to prevent  
12 identifying individual customers. The Commission shall require  
13 all reports to be publicly available.

14 (d) The Commission shall require the electrical  
15 corporation to take any remedial actions necessary to achieve  
16 the Commission's targets, including the use of incentives or  
17 penalties.

18 Section 25. Electrification team; staffing.

19 (a) The Commission shall require each electrical  
20 corporation to establish a dedicated electrification team that  
21 shall, at a minimum, do the following:

22 (1) serve as a single point of contact for customers  
23 throughout the entire energization process;

24 (2) proactively engage with customers to understand  
25 and support electrification plans; and



1           (3) consolidate all transportation electrification  
2           customer programs, accounts and relevant information to  
3           support electrification and the energization process.

4           (b) The Commission shall require each electrical  
5           corporation to have adequate qualified staffing needed for the  
6           electrification team to be consistent with the findings and  
7           achieve the policies and requirements of this Act.

8           (c) For job classifications that have apprentice training  
9           requirements, the Commission shall require each electrical  
10          corporation to maintain a pipeline of apprentices sufficient  
11          to meet future qualified staffing needs, subject to any  
12          limitations based on safe staffing ratios.

13          (d) As part of each report required pursuant to paragraph  
14          (2) of subsection (a) of Section 20, and in each general rate  
15          case application, each electrical corporation shall include a  
16          detailed analysis of its current qualified staffing level and  
17          future required qualified staffing level for each job  
18          classification needed to achieve the policies and requirements  
19          of this Act.

20          Section 30. Electrical corporation requirements. The  
21          Commission shall require an electrical corporation to do the  
22          following:

23               (1) consider, in its annual distribution planning process,  
24               all of the following:

25                       (A) federal, State, regional, and local air quality

1 and decarbonization standards, plans, and regulations;

2 (B) the transportation and building electrification  
3 policies of State law;

4 (C) State agency, local agency, and local government  
5 plans and requirements related to housing, economic  
6 development, critical facilities, transportation, and  
7 building electrification; and

8 (D) load and electrification forecasts that include  
9 the following:

10 (i) known load and projections of load conducted  
11 by State agencies, and projections of load that exceed  
12 forecasts conducted by State agencies, including the  
13 Commission-led study as required by this Act;

14 (ii) includes a minimum of 3 time horizons  
15 including short (1 to 2 years), medium (3 to 5 years),  
16 and long-term (6 to 10 years);

17 (iii) includes multiple scenarios including  
18 business-as-usual, meeting climate goals, and low,  
19 medium, and high electrification;

20 (iv) hourly, feeder-level forecasts; and

21 (v) a consideration of the impact of distributed  
22 energy resource forecasts and specifically, local  
23 generation.

24 (2) Consider, in its site evaluation and design process,  
25 all of the following:

26 (A) flexible interconnection such as automated load

1 management, managed charging, and distributed energy  
2 resources to defer or mitigate energization-related grid  
3 upgrades; and

4 (B) if the above solutions cannot defer or mitigate an  
5 upgrade, the electrical corporation may evaluate  
6 traditional system upgrades.

7 (3) Adopt and implement rules and regulations to satisfy  
8 the policies set forth in Section 20 and to meet the  
9 energization time periods established pursuant to paragraph  
10 (1) of subsection (a) of Section 20.

11 Section 35. Recovery of costs. The Commission shall ensure  
12 that electrical corporations have sufficient and timely  
13 recovery of costs to be consistent with the findings and  
14 achieve the policies and requirements of this Act, including  
15 for emergent electrification projects.

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
17 becoming law.