

UTILITY TREE AND VEGETATION TRIMMING

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House Bill 4361 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Phil Green
Committee: Energy
Complete to 6-1-25

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4361 would amend 1939 PA 3, the enabling act for the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), to require (in addition to existing requirements described below) that the service quality and reliability standards developed and adopted by the MPSC for entities under its jurisdiction must be designed to allow electric utilities to do either of the following:

- Trim trees from the ground to the sky to save costs and ensure transmission or distribution line reliability.
- Maintain all vegetation for up to 15 feet from the outermost portion of the wire that conducts electricity.

MCL 460.10p

BACKGROUND:

The act requires the MPSC to adopt generally applicable service quality and reliability standards¹ for the transmission, generation, and distribution systems of electric utilities and other entities subject to its jurisdiction, including standards for service outages, distribution facility upgrades, repairs and maintenance, telephone service, billing service, operational reliability, and public and worker safety. In setting the standards, the MPSC must consider safety, costs, local geography and weather, applicable codes, national electric industry practices, sound engineering judgment, and experience. The standards must be designed to do all of the following, as applicable:

- When appropriate, establish different requirements for each customer class to reflect their different load and service characteristics.
- Consider the availability and cost of equipment and labor necessary to maintain or upgrade distribution and generating facilities.
- Ensure that the most cost-effective means of addressing power quality disturbances are promoted for each utility.
- Take into account the extent to which the benefits of achieving a standard are offset by the costs of doing so.
- Carefully consider the time frame for achieving a specified standard.

The standards do not apply to municipal utilities, affiliated transmission companies, or independent transmission companies.

¹ See <https://ars.apps.lara.state.mi.us/AdminCode/DownloadAdminCodeFile?FileName=R%20460.701%20to%20R%20460.752.pdf&ReturnHTML=True>

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4361 would have no fiscal impact on any units of state or local government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.