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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 1253

02/02/2023

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Climate and Energy Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to energy; requiring public utilities to assess and report on the vulnerability  
1.3 of critical electric substations to physical attack; requiring implementation of  
1.4 security measures; providing for cost recovery.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **ELECTRIC UTILITY SUBSTATION SECURITY; ASSESSMENT;**  
1.7 **IMPLEMENTATION.**

1.8 (a) The Public Utilities Commission must issue an order requiring each public utility  
1.9 that provides retail electric service in Minnesota to contract, no later than October 1, 2023,  
1.10 with an independent analyst with expertise in physical security for electrical distribution  
1.11 systems to assess the physical security risks to the utility's electrical utility substations that,  
1.12 if rendered inoperable or damaged, could result in widespread instability or interruption of  
1.13 service within the electrical grid. At a minimum, the assessment must:

1.14 (1) evaluate potential threats to and vulnerabilities of substations with respect to physical  
1.15 attacks;

1.16 (2) recommend a security plan that significantly reduces the vulnerability to physical  
1.17 attacks of substations by implementing measures designed to detect, deter, delay, assess,  
1.18 communicate, and respond to physical threats; and

1.19 (3) develop a detailed budget to implement the recommended actions.

1.20 (b) The assessment required under this section must be filed with the Public Utilities  
1.21 Commission no later than June 1, 2024. The Public Utilities Commission must review the  
1.22 assessments and issue orders no later than November 1, 2024, to each public utility to

2.1 implement recommendations contained in the assessments that the Public Utilities  
2.2 Commission determines are key to enhancing the physical security of critical substations.

2.3 (c) The assessment and implementation of security recommendations made under this  
2.4 section are eligible for cost recovery under Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.16.

2.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.