

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2004

770J0445

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ENGROSSED NO.

HB 1125 - 01/28/2004

Introduced by: Representatives Madsen, Cutler, Davis, Hackl, Hanson, Hargens, Hennies, Hunhoff, Juhnke, Konold, LaRue, O'Brien, Pederson (Gordon), Peterson (Jim), Rhoden, Sebert, and Teupel and Senators de Hueck, Bogue, Duenwald, Duniphan, Earley, Greenfield, Koetzle, and Vitter

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the establishment of
2 proof of compliance with applicable standards as due care in certain utility negligence
3 claims.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

5 Section 1. That § 47-21-75 be amended to read as follows:

6 47-21-75. Construction of electric lines by a cooperative shall ~~as a minimum requirement,~~
7 comply with the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code in effect at the time of ~~such~~
8 the construction; ~~provided, however, that where Y-connected circuits with neutral conductors~~
9 ~~effectively grounded throughout their length are used in the construction or reconstruction of~~
10 ~~electrical distribution or transmission lines, minimum vertical clearance of wires or neutral~~
11 ~~conductors over ground or rails shall be determined by the voltage between the wires and the~~
12 ~~ground, if such voltage does not exceed fifteen thousand volts.~~ Proof of compliance with the
13 requirements of the applicable National Electrical Safety Code establishes due care in the
14 defense of a negligence claim alleging a violation of that standard.



1 Section 2. That § 31-26-5 be amended to read as follows:

2 31-26-5. The grantee under § 31-26-1 shall construct and maintain ~~said~~ the grantee's poles,
3 wires, or underground cable and line in accordance with the applicable National Electrical
4 Safety Code adopted by the Bureau of Standards of the United States Department of Commerce.
5 Proof of compliance with the requirements of an applicable National Electrical Safety Code
6 standard establishes due care in the defense of a negligence claim alleging a violation of that
7 standard.

8 Section 3. That § 31-26-22 be amended to read as follows:

9 31-26-22. The Transportation Commission may ~~adopt~~ promulgate rules and the Department
10 of Transportation may issue permits, to allow electrical lines, pipelines, communication lines
11 and other utilities, including rural water service pipelines, whether above or below ground, to
12 operate the facilities over, under, or along public grounds, streets, alleys and highways under
13 its jurisdiction in this state. Any rule ~~adopted under~~ promulgated pursuant to this section shall
14 set forth application and issuance of permit criteria and installation standards necessary to
15 preserve a safe traffic environment, the appearance of the highway, and the efficiency and
16 economy of highway maintenance and shall be ~~adopted~~ promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26.
17 Proof of compliance with the requirements of the applicable National Electrical Safety Code
18 standard establishes due care in the defense of a negligence claim alleging a violation of that
19 standard.