

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2678

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to initiate a rule-making to reform the interregional transmission planning process, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2021

Mr. CASTEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to initiate a rulemaking to reform the interregional transmission planning process, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Interregional Trans-  
5 mission Planning Improvement Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. RULEMAKING TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS**  
2 **OF INTERREGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLAN-**  
3 **NING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regu-  
6 latory Commission shall initiate a rulemaking address-  
7 ing—

8 (1) the effectiveness of existing planning proc-  
9 esses for identifying interregional transmission  
10 projects that provide economic, reliability, oper-  
11 ational, public policy, and environmental benefits  
12 (including reductions in carbon emissions), taking  
13 into consideration the public interest, the integrity of  
14 markets, and the protection of consumers;

15 (2) changes to the processes described in para-  
16 graph (1) to ensure that efficient, cost-effective, and  
17 broadly beneficial interregional transmission solu-  
18 tions are selected for cost allocation, taking into con-  
19 sideration—

20 (A) the public interest;

21 (B) the integrity of markets;

22 (C) the protection of consumers;

23 (D) the broad range of economic, reli-  
24 ability, operational, public policy, and environ-  
25 mental benefits that interregional transmission

1 provides, including reductions in carbon emis-  
2 sions;

3 (E) the need for single projects to secure  
4 approvals based on a comprehensive assessment  
5 of the multiple benefits provided;

6 (F) that projects that meet interregional  
7 benefit criteria should not be subject to subse-  
8 quent reassessment by transmission planning  
9 authorities;

10 (G) the importance of synchronization of  
11 planning processes in neighboring regions, such  
12 as using a joint model on a consistent timeline  
13 with a single set of needs, input assumptions,  
14 and benefit metrics;

15 (H) that evaluation of long-term scenarios  
16 should align with the expected life of a trans-  
17 mission asset;

18 (I) that transmission planning authorities  
19 should allow for the identification and joint  
20 evaluation of alternatives proposed by stake-  
21 holders;

22 (J) that interregional planning should be  
23 done regularly and not less frequently than  
24 once every 3 years; and

1           (K) the elimination of arbitrary project  
2           voltage, size, or cost requirements for inter-  
3           regional solutions; and

4           (3) cost allocation methodologies that reflect  
5           the multiple benefits provided by interregional trans-  
6           mission solutions, including economic, reliability,  
7           operational, public policy, and environmental bene-  
8           fits (including reductions in carbon emissions).

9           (b) **TIMING.**—Not later than 18 months after the  
10          date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regu-  
11          latory Commission shall promulgate a final rule to com-  
12          plete the rulemaking initiated under subsection (a).

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