STATE OF NEW YORK

8931--A

IN SENATE

August 21, 2020

Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, MAYER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to directing the public service commission study the feasibility and the costs of burying all or most of the electrical, telephone and internet transmission lines in New York state and to publish and deliver a report of its findings to the governor and the legislature, and requiring new electrical, telephone and internet transmission lines to be buried underground

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding two new sections 119-d and 119-e to read as follows:

§ 119-d. Buried line study. 1. The commission shall conduct a study to analyze the feasibility and the costs of burying underground all or most of the existing electrical, telephone and internet transmission lines in New York state. Such study shall include an analysis of:

(a) the economic and environmental benefits from burying such existing lines; and

(b) the economic cost burden of doing so, if any, including an estimate of what the cost per utility customer would be, the number of jobs to be created to complete the project and a timeline for completion of the project.

2. In analyzing costs and benefits for the purposes of this study, the commission shall consider the varying geographical areas of the state and report separately on the impact particular areas might have on the project. The study shall also quantify the economic costs and benefits of burying existing electrical, telephone and internet transmission lines to utility customers and shall disaggregate the results by utility. The study shall calculate the cost per customer of the entire cost of project statewide, regardless of where the customer lives, for the life of the project on a monthly basis.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD17082-03-0

3. Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this section, the commission shall:

(a) publish the report of its findings on its website in a location accessible to the public; and

(b) deliver a copy of the report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the senate energy and telecommunications committee and the chair of the assembly energy committee.

§ 119-e. Buried lines. 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, to the greatest extent possible, all new electrical, telephone and internet transmission lines installed in the state shall be buried underground.

2. The provisions of this section shall apply to electrical, telephone and internet transmission lines for which preliminary permits are issued on and after the effective date of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.