

## State Corporation Commission 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB782

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Saslaw

**3. Committee:** Commerce and Labor

**4. Title:** Undergrounding electric transmission lines; pilot program.

**5. Summary:** Specifies that one of the two projects that may be included in the pilot program for the undergrounding of electric transmission lines shall be for the relocation or conversion of an existing 230-kilovolt overhead line to an underground line. The measure provides that such a project may be approved if the estimated additional cost of placing the line, in whole or in part, underground does not exceed \$40 million or, if greater than \$40 million, the cost does not exceed 2.5 times the costs of placing the same line overhead, which costs are borne by all of the utility's ratepayers through a rate adjustment clause. Currently the cost of such a project is ineligible if it exceeds 2.5 times the cost of placing the same line overhead. The measure provides that such a project may be approved for participation in the pilot program if its primary need is related to the economic development priorities and the comprehensive plan of the governing body of the locality in which at least a portion of line will be placed. The measure exempts a project that satisfies the criteria for participation in the pilot project from the requirement that the State Corporation Commission find that the transmission line is needed. The measure adds that the pilot program is created to further understanding of the benefits of undergrounding existing electric transmission lines to promote economic development.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** No fiscal impact on the State Corporation Commission

**8. Fiscal Implications:** No fiscal impact on the State Corporation Commission

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Corporation Commission

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None

**11. Other Comments:**

KBP 1/14/20