

CHAPTER 310
HB 1723 - FINAL VERSION

12Mar2026... 0935h
04/09/2026 1307s
05/14/2026 1811s
4Jun2026... 2158EBA

2026 SESSION

26-2705
06/08

HOUSE BILL **1723**

AN ACT requiring utilities and electric grid operators to assess and report the vulnerability of high-voltage transformers to geomagnetic and electromagnetic disturbances, and to recommend mitigation measures to protect the state electric infrastructure.

SPONSORS: Rep. Mattson, Ches. 18; Rep. Cole, Hills. 26; Rep. Qualey, Ches. 18; Rep. Sabourin dit Choiniere, Rock. 30; Rep. Schneller, Hills. 2; Rep. D. Thomas, Rock. 16; Rep. Vose, Rock. 5; Rep. Ammon, Hills. 42; Rep. McGhee, Hills. 35; Rep. Mary Murphy, Hills. 27; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Ricciardi, Dist 9

COMMITTEE: Science, Technology and Energy

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of energy to investigate vulnerabilities of electric transmission transformers to geomagnetic and electromagnetic disturbances and report findings with recommendations.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT requiring utilities and electric grid operators to assess and report the vulnerability of high-voltage transformers to geomagnetic and electromagnetic disturbances, and to recommend mitigation measures to protect the state electric infrastructure.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 310:1 Short title. This act shall be known as "Survey All Vulnerable Electric Transformers Act."

2 310:2 Findings.

3 I. America's electric grid is critical to modern life and faces existential threats from solar weather
4 events (coronal mass ejections—CME), geomagnetic disturbances—GMDs, and high-altitude nuclear
5 electromagnetic pulse—HEMP, all capable of disabling electric power systems.

6 II. High voltage transformers are especially vulnerable to geomagnetically induced currents—
7 GICs—whether induced by GMDs or HEMP E3 component, entering the grid through ground-connected
8 neutral wires.

9 III. Extra High Voltage (EHV) transformers (345 kV-765 kV) are most vulnerable and difficult to
10 replace, with production lead times of up to 4-6 years.

11 IV. GIC vulnerability is influenced by transformer characteristics, ground conductivity, and the
12 magnetic field intensity from GMD or E3 HEMP.

13 V. Aging transformers are more susceptible to GIC due to degraded insulating oil and coil
14 condition.

15 VI. Federal and international standards highlight the importance of transformer assessment and
16 protection against these threats.

17 VII. On July 23, 2012, a powerful CME erupted off the back side of the sun racing through Earth's
18 orbit missing Earth by 9 days. It was measured by STEREO-A satellite and determined by the National
19 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to be in all respects at least the size of the Carrington event of
20 1859.

21 VIII. In 2012, the United States Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory working with
22 the United States Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency conducted live grid E3
23 HEMP tests to analyze GIC harmonic threats to the electric power grid. The results showed transformer
24 half-cycle saturation and generation of harmonics that exceeded the IEEE 519 Standard with GIC of 15
25 Amps in the neutral of the power transformer.

26 IX. In February 2013, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) GMD
27 committee of 8 respected space weather scientists estimated a reference storm. Preliminary results
28 showed a peak electric field strength of 30 V/km to 40 V/km.

CHAPTER 310
HB 1723 - FINAL VERSION
- Page 2 -

1 X. In May 2025, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) updated the international
2 standard IEC 61000-2-9 for E3 HEMP to 85 V/km.

3 XI. The NERC GMD Standard requires New Hampshire to model roughly 3 V/km.

4 XII. With the existence of validated GIC mitigation hardware that protects power transformers and
5 improves grid resilience against these severe GIC events, reliance on load shedding or operating
6 procedures which cannot block GIC are no longer justified.

7 310:3 Geomagnetic and Electromagnetic Disturbance Electric Transmission; Department of Energy;
8 Vulnerability Investigation.

9 I. The department of energy shall investigate the vulnerability of electric transmission
10 transformers and other system components to geomagnetically induced currents. The investigation shall
11 answer the following questions:

12 (a) What studies and assessments have previously been performed that reviewed
13 transmission system vulnerabilities to geomagnetic and electromagnetic disturbances?

14 (b) How were those studies conducted and what were the transmission system grid
15 vulnerabilities identified?

16 (c) Given the current NERC GMD standard of 3 V/km and the IEC international standard of
17 85 V/km, did the magnetic field standard utilized adequately assess the vulnerability of the transmission
18 system in New Hampshire to geomagnetic and electromagnetic disturbances?

19 (d) If the magnetic field standard utilized in previous studies did not adequately assess
20 transmission infrastructure vulnerability, what standard should be used?

21 (e) What would be the cost to conduct a transmission infrastructure assessment at a higher
22 standard than has previously been used?

23 (f) How long would an additional assessment at a higher standard take to complete?

24 (g) What mitigation strategies and response methods are currently utilized to protect
25 transmission system infrastructure from geomagnetic and electromagnetic disturbances and are those
26 strategies and methods adequate?

27 (h) What role can the state of New Hampshire play in assessing transmission system
28 vulnerabilities that fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and in
29 directing transmission-owning utilities to implement infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions?

30 (i) What funding sources are available to conduct additional assessments or support the
31 installation of equipment to further protect vulnerable transmission system infrastructure from
32 geomagnetic and electromagnetic disturbances?

33 II. The department shall commence the investigation within 120 days of the effective date of this
34 section and complete the investigation within a time period not to exceed 12 months of its
35 commencement. At the conclusion of the investigation, the department shall issue a report of its findings
36 and recommendations to the house science, technology and energy committee, the senate energy and
37 natural resources committee, and the division of homeland security and emergency management and the
38 department shall also send the report to the United States Secretary of Energy, the Federal Energy
39 Regulatory Agency, and ISO-New England.

CHAPTER 310
HB 1723 - FINAL VERSION
- Page 3 -

1 III. Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or order to the contrary, and contingent upon sufficient
2 funding for the biennium ending June 30, 2029, the department shall have the authority necessary to
3 conduct this investigation and implement this act, including, but not limited to, the authority to request
4 information from public utilities, including transmission utilities, regarding transmission infrastructure
5 located within the state of New Hampshire.

6 IV. All data submitted under this section shall be handled in accordance with critical energy
7 infrastructure information protocols and location and purpose data shall be redacted from public reports.
8 "Critical energy infrastructure information protocols" means specific engineering, vulnerability, or detailed
9 design protocols and procedures related to proposed or existing critical infrastructure, whether physical or
10 virtual, that relate to the production, generation, transmission, transportation, or distribution of energy, the
11 unauthorized disclosure of which could pose a risk to the security, reliability, or integrity of the
12 infrastructure; such protocols are designated as confidential and exempt from public disclosure, as their
13 release could be useful to a person planning an attack or otherwise causing harm to the infrastructure.

14 310:4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2027.

Approved: July 10, 2026
Effective Date: September 01, 2027

