

April 10, 1970

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF R.S. 34:6-47.1 et seq.  
(High voltage lines)

No similar bill introduced in 1947.

COPY NO. 2

- L. 1948, Chapter 249 - S274  
Introduced March 22 by Hess.  
No statement.  
April 7 - Passed Senate.  
April 26 - Reported with Assembly Committee Amendment  
(original bill and amendment enclosed).  
May 3 - Passed Assembly.  
May 10 - Repassed Senate.  
July 21 - Approved.

On February 7, 1958 the Commissioner of Labor and Industry created an Advisory Committee on High Voltage-Crane Safety. It prepared the amendments which follow.

Attempts to amend the original act:

- 1959 - A618 (Miller, Biber, Kordja)  
Passed Assembly.  
Died in Senate Committee.
- 1960 - A262 (Crabiel)  
Passed Assembly, amended.  
Died in Senate Committee.
- 1961 - A317 (Crabiel, Maraziti)  
Passed Assembly.  
Had 2d reading in Senate.

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- L. 1966, Chapter 261 - A281  
Introduced February 7 by Halpin (and others).  
No statement.  
Amended in Assembly:

Amend page 2, section 2, line 16, after the word "equipment", add "and insulated power cables enclosed in approved metallic raceways."  
Governor made statement upon signing (copy enclosed).

No hearings or reports were located.

For background see:

NJ            Burch, Philip H., Jr.  
TB60            Industrial safety legislation in  
I5              New Jersey. 1960.  
B947

974.90        N.J. Governor's Advisory Committee on the  
L123            Health and Safety of Workers.  
1962            Report. 1962.

RSL/PC  
GC=yes

SENATE, No. 274

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 1948

By Mr. HESS

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

AN ACT to provide the precautions to be taken in the proximity of high-voltage lines for the prevention of accidents; to make provisions for the administration and enforcement thereof by the Commissioner of Labor and to prescribe penalties for violations thereof.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New*  
2 *Jersey:*

1 1. Definitions. For the purpose of this act:

2 a. "Commissioner" shall mean the Commissioner of Labor or any of his  
3 authorized representatives.

4 b. "Department" shall mean the Department of Labor, or the Division  
5 of Engineering and Safety of the department.

6 c. "Approved" shall mean approved by the commissioner.

7 d. "High-voltage" shall mean a voltage in excess of seven hundred fifty  
8 volts between conductors or from any conductor to ground.

9 e. "Overhead lines" shall mean all bare or insulated electrical con-  
10 ductors installed above ground, excepting those conductors that are enclosed  
11 in approved metal covering.

1 2. General provisions. No person, firm, or corporation, or agent of same,  
2 shall require or permit any employee to perform any function in proximity  
3 to high-voltage lines; to enter upon any land, building, or other premises  
4 and there to engage in any excavation, demolition, construction, repair or

5 other operation; or to erect, install, operate or store in or upon such prem-  
6 ises any tools, machinery, equipment, materials, or structures, including  
7 house moving, well drilling, pile driving or hoisting equipment, unless and  
8 until danger from accidental contact with said high-voltage lines has been  
9 effectively guarded against in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

1       3. Clearance or safeguards required. The operation, erection or trans-  
2 portation of any tools, machinery, or equipment, or any part thereof capable  
3 of vertical, lateral, or swinging motion, the handling, transportation or  
4 storage of any supplies, materials or apparatus, or the moving of any house  
5 or other building, or any part thereof, under, over, by or near high-voltage  
6 lines, is hereby expressly prohibited, if at any time during such operation,  
7 transportation or other manipulation it is possible to bring such equipment,  
8 tools, materials, building or any part thereof within six feet of such high-  
9 voltage lines, except where such high-voltage lines have been effectively  
10 guarded against danger from accidental contact, by either:

11       (1) The erection of mechanical barriers to prevent physical contact  
12 with high-voltage conductors; or

13       (2) De-energizing the high-voltage conductors and grounding where nec-  
14 essary.

15       Only in the case of either such exception may the six foot clearance re-  
16 quired be reduced. The required six foot clearance shall not be provided  
17 by movement of the conductors through strains impressed, by attachments  
18 or otherwise, upon the structures supporting the high-voltage line nor upon  
19 any equipment, fixtures or attachments thereon.

20       If temporary relocation of the high-voltage conductors is necessary ap-  
21 propriate arrangements shall be made with the owner or operator of the  
22 overhead line for such temporary relocation.

1       4. Warning sign required. The owner, agent, or employer responsible  
2 for the operations of equipment, shall post and maintain in plain view of the  
3 operator on each crane, derrick, power-shovel, drilling-rig, hay-loader, hay-  
4 stacker, pile-driver, or similar apparatus, any part of which is capable of

1        4. In addition to the vertical, lateral or swinging motion, an approved durable warning sign legi-  
2        sible from twelve feet reading, "Unlawful to operate this equipment within six  
3        feet of high-voltage lines."

1        5. Notification to power company and responsibility for safeguards.  
2        When any operations are to be performed, tools or materials are to be handled,  
3        or equipment is to be moved or operated, within six feet of any high-voltage  
4        line, the person or persons responsible for the work to be done, shall promptly  
5        notify the operator of the high-voltage line of the work to be performed and  
6        such person shall be responsible for the completion of the safety measures,  
7        when are required by sections two and three of this act, before proceeding  
8        with any work which would impair the aforesaid clearance.

1        6. Enforcement. The commissioner shall administer and enforce the  
2        provisions of this act and he is hereby empowered to prescribe and promul-  
3        gate rules and regulations consistent herewith.

1        7. Violations made misdemeanors; punishment. Any person, firm, cor-  
2        poration or agent of the same; who fails to comply with or who violates any  
3        of the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon con-  
4        viction thereof shall be liable to a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars  
5        (\$25.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisonment  
6        not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the court. All fines col-  
7        lected shall be delivered to the State Treasurer for the general use of the  
8        State.

1        8. Exceptions. This act shall not be construed as applying to, shall not  
2        apply to, and is not intended to apply to, the construction, reconstruction,  
3        operations, and maintenance of overhead electrical conductors and their sup-  
4        porting structures and associated equipment by authorized and qualified  
5        electrical workers; nor to the authorized and qualified employees of any per-  
6        son, firm, or corporation engaged in the construction, reconstruction, opera-  
7        tion, and maintenance of overhead electrical circuits or conductors and their  
8        supporting structures and associated equipment of rail transportation sys-  
9        tems, or electrical generating, transmission, distribution, and communication

10 systems. This exception when applied to railway systems, shall be construed  
11 as permitting operation of standard rail equipment, which is normally used  
12 in the transportation of freight or passengers or both and the operation of  
13 relief trains, or other equipment in emergencies, at a distance of less than six  
14 feet from any high-voltage conductor; but this act shall be construed as pro-  
15 hibiting normal repair or construction operations at a distance of less than six  
16 feet from any high-voltage conductor by other than properly qualified and  
17 authorized persons or employees under the direct supervision of an author-  
18 ized person who is familiar with the hazards involved, unless there has been  
19 compliance with the safety provisions of sections two, three, four and five  
20 hereof.

1 9. In case any provision of this act shall be adjudged unconstitutional  
2 or void for any reason, such adjudication shall not affect any of the other  
3 provisions of this act.

1 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE, No. 274

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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ADOPTED APRIL 26, 1948

Amend: Page 3, section 4, line 3: After " " by adding "*provided, however,* that this requirement shall not apply to railway equipment operating on railway right of way in relation to high voltage conductors of such railway system under conditions for which exemption is granted under section 8 of this act."

Amend: Page 4, section 8, line 13: After emergencies, by adding "or in maintenance of way service,"

Amend: Page 4, section 8, line 14: After conductor, by adding "of such railway system;"

FROM: Office of the Governor

FOR RELEASE: September 6, 1966

Governor Richard J. Hughes today signed the following bills:

Assembly Bill No. 281 -- amends the law as to the safety precautions that must be taken while working in the proximity of high-voltage lines. This is the first amendment to the law since its adoption in 1948. At the signing Governor Hughes expressed his hope that the precautions required by the bill as well as the strengthening of the penalty clause will make our law more effective in preventing accidents occurring as a result of equipment touching overhead high-voltage lines. This bill which was prepared by the Department of Labor, is based both on the experience of that department as well as the modern safety devices and methods now available for working near such lines.

Assembly Bill No. 758 -- the "New Jersey Hazardous Substances Labeling Act" with an appropriation of \$30,000 for purposes of administering the act. Governor Hughes recommended the adoption of this measure, which is based on the Model Labeling of Hazardous Substances Act, to the Legislature in 1964 as part of a veto message on Assembly Bill No. 670. At the signing Governor Hughes stated:

"It has become increasingly apparent that there is a need to protect and alert the New Jersey consumer to merchandise containing hazardous substances. This bill will establish uniform and comprehensive specifications and machinery for regulating the labeling of all dangerous chemical products. Hopefully, this measure will greatly contribute to protecting the health and safety of our citizens against the sale of inadequately labeled hazardous substances."