

Unofficial Draft Copy

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LCNET3

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act revising and updating the public service commission's role of reviewing net metering equipment and technologies; amending sections 69-8-602 and 69-8-604, MCA; and providing an immediate effective date."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

Section 1. Section 69-8-602, MCA, is amended to read:

"69-8-602. Utility net metering requirements. A public utility shall:

(1) allow net metering systems to be interconnected using a standard kilowatt-hour meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in two directions, unless the commission makes a determination in accordance with 69-8-604(3) that alternative net metering equipment should be used ~~determines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment:~~

~~(a) that the use of additional metering equipment to monitor the flow of electricity in each direction is necessary and appropriate for the interconnection of net metering systems, after taking into account the benefits and costs of purchasing and installing additional metering equipment; and~~

~~(b) how the costs of net metering are to be allocated between the customer-generator and the utility; and~~

(2) charge the customer-generator a minimum monthly fee that is the same as other customers of the ~~electric~~ public utility in the same rate class. The commission shall determine, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment if:

(a) the public utility will incur direct costs associated with interconnecting or administering net metering systems that exceed any offsetting benefits associated with these net metering systems; and

(b) public policy is best served by imposing these costs on the customer-generator, rather than allocating these costs among the public utility's entire customer base."

{ *Internal References to 69-8-602:*
69-8-603 }

Section 2. Section 69-8-604, MCA, is amended to read:

"69-8-604. Net metering system -- reliability and safety.

(1) A net metering system used by a customer-generator must include, at the customer-generator's own expense, all equipment necessary to meet applicable safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements established by the national electrical code, national electrical safety code, institute of electrical and electronic engineers, and underwriters laboratories.

(2) The commission, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment, may adopt by rule additional safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements for customer-generators that the commission ~~or the local governing~~

body determines are necessary to protect public safety and net metering system reliability.

(3) The commission, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment, shall determine whether the use of additional metering equipment or technologies to monitor the flow of electricity in each direction is necessary and appropriate for the interconnection of net metering systems. In making this determination, the commission shall consider:

(a) the benefits and costs of purchasing and installing additional metering equipment or technologies;

(b) how the costs of additional net metering equipment or technologies are to be allocated between the customer-generator and the public utility; and

(c) whether additional metering equipment or technologies would improve:

(i) grid operability and reliability; and

(ii) net-metered customer billing."

{Internal References to 69-8-604: None.}

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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{Name : Sonja E. Nowakowski
Title : Research Analyst
Agency : LSD LEPO
Phone : 406-444-3078
E-Mail : snowakowski@mt.gov}