

HOUSE BILL NO. 170

INTRODUCED BY B. THOMAS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING CUSTOMER-GENERATORS TO OPT NOT TO
5 CONNECT A NET METERING SYSTEM TO OTHER METERS ON THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S
6 PREMISES; ALLOWING NET ELECTRICITY PRODUCED BY A CUSTOMER-GENERATOR TO BE CREDITED
7 TO ALL ACCOUNTS ON THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S PREMISES FOR EACH BILLING PERIOD;
8 ALLOWING ANY REMAINING UNUSED KILOWATT-HOUR CREDIT ACCUMULATED DURING THE
9 PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS TO BE GRANTED TO THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR; REQUIRING A
10 DISTRIBUTION SERVICES PROVIDER TO COMPENSATE THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR IN AN AMOUNT
11 EQUAL TO THE AVERAGE RETAIL RATE OF THE UNUSED ELECTRICITY FOR THE RATE CLASS OF THE
12 CUSTOMER; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 69-8-602 AND 69-8-603, MCA."

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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16 **Section 1.** Section 69-8-602, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"69-8-602. Distribution services provider net metering requirements.** A distribution services provider
18 shall:

19 (1) allow net metering systems to be interconnected using a standard kilowatt-hour meter capable of
20 registering the flow of electricity in two directions, unless the commission determines, after appropriate notice and
21 opportunity for comment:

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

25 (b) how the costs of net metering are to be allocated between the customer-generator and the
26 distribution services provider; and

27 (c) that the customer-generator opts not to have an interconnection between the net metering system and
28 additional meters on the customer-generator's premises; and

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

1 for comment if:

2 (a) the distribution services provider will incur direct costs associated with interconnecting or
3 administering net metering systems that exceed any offsetting benefits associated with these net metering
4 systems; and

5 (b) public policy is best served by imposing these costs on the customer-generator, rather than allocating
6 these costs among the distribution services provider's entire customer base."
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8 **Section 2.** Section 69-8-603, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"69-8-603. Net energy measurement calculation.** Consistent with the other provisions of this part, the
10 net energy measurement must be calculated in the following manner:

11 (1) The distribution services provider shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed during the
12 billing period, in accordance with normal metering practices.

13 (2) The net electricity produced by the customer-generator must be credited to accounts for all meters
14 on the customer-generator's premises for each billing period.

15 ~~(2)(3)~~ If the electricity supplied by the electricity supplier exceeds the electricity generated by the
16 customer-generator and fed back to the electricity supplier during the billing period, the customer-generator must
17 be billed for the net electricity supplied by the electricity supplier, in accordance with normal metering practices.

18 ~~(3)(4)~~ If electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds the electricity supplied by the electricity
19 supplier, the customer-generator must be:

20 (a) billed for the appropriate customer charges for that billing period, in accordance with 69-8-602; and

21 (b) credited for the excess kilowatt hours generated during the billing period, with this kilowatt-hour credit
22 appearing on the bill for the following billing period.

23 ~~(4)(5)~~ On January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 of each year, as designated by the customer-generator
24 as the beginning date of a 12-month billing period, any remaining unused kilowatt-hour credit accumulated during
25 the previous 12 months must be granted to the ~~electricity supplier, without any compensation to the~~
26 customer-generator.

27 (6) The customer-generator must be compensated in an amount equal to the average retail rate of the
28 unused electricity for the rate class of the customer."

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