

## SENATE BILL NO. 330

INTRODUCED BY E. WALKER

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTING A WAIVER FOR  
5 NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE GRADUATED RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD; AMENDING SECTIONS  
6 69-3-2004, 69-3-2005, AND 69-3-2006, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A  
7 RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 69-3-2004, MCA, is amended to read:  
12 **"69-3-2004. Renewable resource standard -- administrative penalty -- waiver.** (1) Except as provided  
13 in 69-3-2007 and subsections ~~(11) and (12)~~ (10) through (12) of this section, a graduated renewable energy  
14 standard is established for public utilities and competitive electricity suppliers as provided in subsections (2)  
15 ~~through (4)~~ and (3) of this section.  
16 ~~———(2) In each compliance year beginning January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2009, each public utility~~  
17 ~~and competitive electricity supplier shall procure a minimum of 5% of its retail sales of electrical energy in~~  
18 ~~Montana from eligible renewable resources.~~  
19 ~~(3)(2)~~ (a) In each compliance year beginning January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2014, each public  
20 utility and competitive electricity supplier shall procure a minimum of 10% of its retail sales of electrical energy  
21 in Montana from eligible renewable resources.  
22 (b) Beginning January 1, 2012, as part of their compliance with subsection ~~(3)(a)~~ (2)(a), public utilities  
23 shall purchase both the renewable energy credits and the electricity output from community renewable energy  
24 projects that total at least 50 megawatts in nameplate capacity.  
25 (c) Public utilities shall proportionately allocate the purchase required under subsection ~~(3)(b)~~ (2)(b)  
26 based on each public utility's retail sales of electrical energy in Montana in the calendar year 2011.  
27 ~~(4)(3)~~ (a) In the compliance year beginning January 1, 2015, and in each succeeding compliance year,  
28 each public utility and competitive electricity supplier shall procure a minimum of 15% of its retail sales of  
29 electrical energy in Montana from eligible renewable resources.  
30 (b) (i) As part of their compliance with subsection ~~(4)(a)~~ (3)(a), public utilities shall purchase both the

1 renewable energy credits and the electricity output from community renewable energy projects that total at least  
2 75 megawatts in nameplate capacity.

3 (ii) In meeting the standard in subsection ~~(4)(b)(i)~~ (3)(b)(i), a public utility may include purchases made  
4 under subsection ~~(3)(b)~~ (2)(b).

5 (c) Public utilities shall proportionately allocate the purchase required under subsection ~~(4)(b)~~ (3)(b)  
6 based on each public utility's retail sales of electrical energy in Montana in the calendar year 2014.

7 ~~(5)(4)~~ (a) In complying with the standards required under subsections (2) ~~through (4)~~ and (3), a public  
8 utility or competitive electricity supplier shall, for any given compliance year, calculate its procurement  
9 requirement based on the public utility's or competitive electricity supplier's previous year's sales of electrical  
10 energy to retail customers in Montana.

11 (b) The standard in subsections (2) ~~through (4)~~ and (3) must be calculated on a delivered-energy basis  
12 after accounting for any line losses.

13 ~~(6)(5)~~ A public utility or competitive electricity supplier has until 3 months following the end of each  
14 compliance year to purchase renewable energy credits for that compliance year.

15 ~~(7)(6)~~ (a) In order to meet the standard established in subsections (2) ~~through (4)~~ and (3), a public utility  
16 or competitive electricity supplier may only use:

17 (i) electricity from an eligible renewable resource in which the associated renewable energy credits have  
18 not been sold separately;

19 (ii) renewable energy credits created by an eligible renewable resource purchased separately from the  
20 associated electricity; or

21 (iii) any combination of subsections ~~(7)(a)(i) and (7)(a)(ii)~~ (6)(a)(i) and (6)(a)(ii).

22 (b) A public utility or competitive electricity supplier may not resell renewable energy credits and count  
23 those sold credits against the public utility's or the competitive electricity supplier's obligation to meet the  
24 standards established in subsections (2) ~~through (4)~~ and (3).

25 (c) Renewable energy credits sold through a voluntary service such as the one provided for in  
26 69-8-210(2) may not be applied against a public utility's or competitive electricity supplier's obligation to meet the  
27 standards established in subsections (2) ~~through (4)~~ and (3).

28 ~~(8)(7)~~ Nothing in this part limits a public utility or competitive electricity supplier from exceeding the  
29 standards established in subsections (2) ~~through (4)~~ and (3).

30 ~~(9)(8)~~ If a public utility or competitive electricity supplier exceeds a standard established in subsections

1 (2) ~~through (4)~~ and (3) in any compliance year, the public utility or competitive electricity supplier may carry  
 2 forward the amount by which the standard was exceeded to comply with the standard in either or both of the 2  
 3 subsequent compliance years. The carryforward may not be double-counted.

4 ~~(10)(9)~~ Except as provided in subsections ~~(11) and (12)~~ (10) through (12), if a public utility or competitive  
 5 electricity supplier is unable to meet the standards established in subsections (2) ~~through (4)~~ and (3) in any  
 6 compliance year, that public utility or competitive electricity supplier shall pay an administrative penalty, assessed  
 7 by the commission, of \$10 for each megawatt hour of renewable energy credits that the public utility or  
 8 competitive electricity supplier failed to procure. A public utility may not recover this penalty in electricity rates.  
 9 Money generated from these penalties must be deposited in the universal low-income energy assistance fund  
 10 established in 69-8-412(1)(a).

11 ~~(11)(10)~~ (a) A public utility or competitive electricity supplier may, in accordance with subsection (11),  
 12 petition the commission for a ~~short-term~~ waiver from full compliance with the standards in subsections (2) ~~through~~  
 13 ~~(4) and (3)~~ and the penalties levied under subsection ~~(10) (9)~~. The petition must demonstrate that the:

14 ~~(a)(i)~~ public utility or competitive electricity supplier has undertaken all reasonable steps to procure  
 15 renewable energy credits under long-term contract at a reasonable price, but full compliance cannot be achieved  
 16 either because renewable energy credits cannot be procured at a reasonable price or for other legitimate reasons  
 17 that are outside the control of the public utility or competitive electricity supplier; ~~or~~

18 ~~(b)(ii)~~ integration of additional eligible renewable resources into the electrical grid will clearly and  
 19 demonstrably jeopardize the reliability of the electrical system and that the public utility or competitive electricity  
 20 supplier has undertaken all reasonable steps to mitigate the reliability concerns; or

21 (iii) public utility or competitive electricity supplier has undertaken all reasonable steps to procure  
 22 renewable energy credits and electricity from an eligible renewable resource, but the cost exceeds the caps  
 23 provided for in 69-3-2007.

24 (b) For the purposes of this subsection (10) "reasonable price" means a price that does not exceed 5%  
 25 of the retail electricity supply rate of the public utility or competitive electricity supplier.

26 (11) A public utility or competitive electricity supplier may apply for a waiver pursuant to subsection (10)  
 27 at any time, and the waiver must be granted for a period of not less than 3 compliance years.

28 (12) (a) Retail sales made by a competitive electricity supplier according to prices, terms, and conditions  
 29 of a written contract executed prior to April 25, 2007, are exempt from the standards in subsections (2) ~~through~~  
 30 ~~(4) and (3)~~.

1 (b) The exemption provided for in subsection (12)(a) is terminated upon modification after April 25, 2007,  
2 of the prices, terms, or conditions in a written contract."

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4 **Section 2.** Section 69-3-2005, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"69-3-2005. Procurement -- cost recovery -- reporting.** (1) In meeting the requirements of this part,  
6 a public utility shall:

7 (a) conduct renewable energy solicitations under which the public utility offers to purchase renewable  
8 energy credits, either with or without the associated electricity, under contracts of at least 10 years in duration;

9 (b) consider the importance of geographically diverse rural economic development when procuring  
10 renewable energy credits; and

11 (c) consider the importance of dispatch ability, seasonality, and other attributes of the eligible renewable  
12 resource contained in the commission's supply procurement rules when considering the procurement of  
13 renewable energy or renewable energy credits.

14 (2) A public utility that intends to enter into contracts of less than 10 years in duration shall demonstrate  
15 to the commission that these contracts will provide a lower long-term cost of meeting the standard established  
16 in 69-3-2004.

17 (3) (a) Contracts signed for projects located in Montana must require all contractors to give preference  
18 to the employment of bona fide Montana residents, as defined in 18-2-401, in the performance of the work on the  
19 projects if the Montana residents have substantially equal qualifications to those of nonresidents.

20 (b) Contracts signed for projects located in Montana must require all contractors to pay the standard  
21 prevailing rate of wages for heavy construction, as provided in 18-2-414, during the construction phase of the  
22 project.

23 (4) All contracts signed by a public utility to meet the requirements of this part are eligible for advanced  
24 approval under procedures established by the commission. Upon advanced approval by the commission, these  
25 contracts are eligible for cost recovery from ratepayers, except that nothing in this part limits the commission's  
26 ability to subsequently, in any future cost-recovery proceeding, inquire into the manner in which the public utility  
27 has managed the contract and to disallow cost recovery if the contract was not reasonably administered.

28 (5) A public utility or competitive electricity supplier shall submit renewable energy procurement plans  
29 to the commission in accordance with rules adopted by the commission. The plans must be submitted to the  
30 commission on or before:

- 1 (a) June 1, 2013, for the standard required in ~~69-3-2004(4)~~ 69-3-2004(3); and
- 2 (b) any additional future dates as required by the commission.
- 3 (6) A public utility or competitive electricity supplier shall submit annual reports, in a format to be
- 4 determined by the commission, demonstrating compliance with this part for each compliance year. The reports
- 5 must be filed by March 1 of the year following the compliance year.
- 6 (7) For the purpose of implementing this part, the commission has regulatory authority over competitive
- 7 electricity suppliers."

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9 **Section 3.** Section 69-3-2006, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"69-3-2006. Commission authority -- rulemaking authority.** (1) The commission has the authority to

11 generally implement and enforce the provisions of this part.

12 (2) The commission shall adopt rules ~~before June 1, 2006~~, to:

- 13 (a) select a renewable energy credit tracking system to verify compliance with this part;
- 14 (b) establish a system by which renewable resources become certified as eligible renewable resources;
- 15 (c) define the process by which waivers from full compliance with this part may be granted in accordance
- 16 with 69-3-2004(10) and (11);
- 17 (d) establish procedures under which contracts for eligible renewable resources and renewable energy
- 18 credits may receive advanced approval;
- 19 (e) define the requirements governing renewable energy procurement plans and annual reports; and
- 20 (f) generally implement and enforce the provisions of this part."

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22 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Saving clause.** [This act] does not affect rights and duties that matured,

23 penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before [the effective date of this act].

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25 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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27 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Retroactive applicability.** [This act] applies retroactively, within the

28 meaning of 1-2-109, to the compliance year beginning January 1, 2011.

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