

2773-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Energy & Utilities (originally sponsored by Representatives Poulsen, Crouse, Morris, Cooper and Constantine)

Brief Title: Requiring electric utilities to provide net metering systems to their customer-generators.

**HB 2773-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Directs an electric utility: (1) To offer to make net metering available to eligible customers-generators on a first-come, first-served basis until the cumulative generating capacity of net metering systems equals 0.1 percent of the utility's peak demand during 1996;

(2) to 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, in the case of an electrical company, or the appropriate governing body, in the case of other electric utilities, 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 cost of purchasing and installing an additional meter is to be allocated between the customer-generator and the utility;

(3) to charge the customer-generator a minimum monthly fee that is the same as other customers of the electric utility in the same rate class, but shall not charge the customer-generator any additional standby, capacity, interconnection, or other fee or charge unless the commission, in the case of an electrical company, or the appropriate governing body, in the case of other electric utilities, determines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment that: (a) the electric utility will incur direct costs associated with interconnecting or administering net metering systems that exceed any offsetting benefits associated with these systems; and

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