

SSB 6081 - S AMD 583
By Senator Rivers

ADOPTED 02/12/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 80.60.020 and 2007 c 323 s 2 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) An electric utility:

6 (a) Shall offer to make net metering available to eligible
7 customers-generators on a first-come, first-served basis until the
8 cumulative generating capacity of net metering systems equals 0.25
9 percent of the utility's peak demand during 1996. On January 1, 2014,
10 the cumulative generating capacity available to net metering systems
11 will equal ((0.5)) four percent of the utility's peak demand during
12 1996. Not less than one-half of the utility's 1996 peak demand
13 available for net metering systems shall be reserved for the
14 cumulative generating capacity attributable to net metering systems
15 that generate renewable energy;

16 (b) Shall allow net metering systems to be interconnected using a
17 standard kilowatt-hour meter capable of registering the flow of
18 electricity in two directions, unless the commission, in the case of
19 an electrical company, or the appropriate governing body, in the case
20 of other electric utilities, determines, after appropriate notice and
21 opportunity for comment:

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

27 (ii) How the cost of purchasing and installing an additional
28 meter is to be allocated between the customer-generator and the
29 utility;

30 (c) Shall charge the customer-generator a minimum monthly fee
31 that is the same as other customers of the electric utility in the
32 same rate class, but shall not charge the customer-generator any

1 additional standby, capacity, interconnection, or other fee or charge
2 unless the commission, in the case of an electrical company, or the
3 appropriate governing body, in the case of other electric utilities,
4 determines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment
5 that:

6 (i) The electric utility will incur direct costs associated with
7 interconnecting or administering net metering systems that exceed any
8 offsetting benefits associated with these systems; and

9 (ii) Public policy is best served by imposing these costs on the
10 customer-generator rather than allocating these costs among the
11 utility's entire customer base.

12 (2) If a production meter and software is required by the
13 electric utility to provide meter aggregation under RCW 80.60.030(4),
14 the customer-generator is responsible for the purchase of the
15 production meter and software.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 80.60.030 and 2007 c 323 s 3 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Consistent with the other provisions of this chapter, the net
19 energy measurement must be calculated in the following manner:

20 (1) The electric utility shall measure the net electricity
21 produced or consumed during the billing period, in accordance with
22 normal metering practices.

23 (2) If the electricity supplied by the electric utility exceeds
24 the electricity generated by the customer-generator and fed back to
25 the electric utility during the billing period, the customer-
26 generator shall be billed for the net electricity supplied by the
27 electric utility, in accordance with normal metering practices.

28 (3) If electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds
29 the electricity supplied by the electric utility, the customer-
30 generator:

31 (a) Shall be billed for the appropriate customer charges for that
32 billing period, in accordance with RCW 80.60.020; and

33 (b) Shall be credited for the excess kilowatt-hours generated
34 during the billing period, with this kilowatt-hour credit appearing
35 on the bill for the following billing period.

36 (4) If a customer-generator requests, an electric utility shall
37 provide meter aggregation.

38 (a) For customer-generators participating in meter aggregation,
39 kilowatt-hours credits earned by a net metering system during the

1 billing period first shall be used to offset electricity supplied by
2 the electric utility.

3 (b) Not more than a total of one hundred kilowatts shall be
4 aggregated among all customer-generators participating in a
5 generating facility under this subsection.

6 (c) Excess kilowatt-hours credits earned by the net metering
7 system, during the same billing period, shall be credited equally by
8 the electric utility to remaining meters located on all premises of a
9 customer-generator at the designated rate of each meter.

10 (d) Meters so aggregated shall not change rate classes due to
11 meter aggregation under this section.

12 (5) On (~~April 30th~~) March 31st of each calendar year, any
13 remaining unused kilowatt-hour credit accumulated during the previous
14 year shall be granted to the electric utility to be used to assist
15 qualified low-income residential customers of the electric utility in
16 paying their electricity bills, without any compensation to the
17 customer-generator.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.16.090 and 1988 c 228 s 1 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Any customer billing issued by a light or power business or gas
21 distribution business that serves a total of more than twenty
22 thousand customers and operates within the state shall include the
23 following information:

24 (1) The rates and amounts of taxes paid directly by the customer
25 upon products or services rendered by the light and power business or
26 gas distribution business; (~~and~~)

27 (2) The rate, origin and approximate amount of each tax levied
28 upon the revenue of the light and power business or gas distribution
29 business and added as a component of the amount charged to the
30 customer. Taxes based upon revenue of the light and power business or
31 gas distribution business to be listed on the customer billing need
32 not include taxes levied by the federal government or taxes levied
33 under chapters 54.28, 80.24, or 82.04 RCW; and

34 (3) The total amount of kilowatt-hours of electricity consumed
35 for the most recent twelve-month period.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 The state building code council, in consultation with the
2 department of commerce and local governments, shall conduct a study
3 of the state building code and adopt changes necessary to encourage
4 greater use of renewable energy systems as defined in RCW 82.16.110.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The department of commerce shall
6 convene a work group to identify issues and laws associated with the
7 future of net metering. The work group shall include representatives
8 from consumer-owned utilities, investor-owned utilities, the
9 utilities and transportation commission, the solar industry, and any
10 other relevant participants. The department of commerce shall report
11 the work group's recommendations to the appropriate committees of the
12 legislature by December 1, 2019. The work group recommendations must
13 identify the specific circumstances in which changes in compensation
14 for net metering systems would be warranted and what the policy
15 should be for customer-generators in the same rate class. As part of
16 the recommendations, the work group must consider the reduction in
17 utility income associated with different levels of net metering and
18 must consider if there are any cost shifts to ratepayers associated
19 with net metering. The work group shall also provide an inventory of
20 other state's net metering laws.

21 (2) This section expires June 30, 2020."

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22 On page 1, beginning on line 1 of the title, after "Relating to"
23 strike the remainder of the title and insert "net metering; amending
24 RCW 80.60.020, 80.60.030, and 82.16.090; adding a new section to
25 chapter 19.27 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
26 expiration date."

EFFECT: Reduces the 6 percent minimum threshold to 4 percent for
the cumulative generating capacity that a utility must make available
for net metering systems.

Adds that the work group must consider the reduction in utility
income associated with different levels of net metering and whether
there are any cost shifts to ratepayers associated with net metering.

Changes the title.

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