

SSB 6081 - S AMD 540

By Senator Ericksen

NOT ADOPTED 02/12/2018

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of commerce shall
4 convene a work group to identify issues and laws associated with the
5 future of net metering. The work group must include representatives
6 from consumer-owned utilities, investor-owned utilities, the
7 utilities and transportation commission, the solar industry, and any
8 other relevant participants. The department of commerce shall provide
9 the work group's report to the appropriate committees of the
10 legislature by December 1, 2019. As part of the report, the work
11 group must consider the reduction in utility income associated with
12 different levels of net metering and the increase necessary in retail
13 electric rates to affected rate classes to recoup that income. The
14 work group must specifically evaluate the effect of needed changes to
15 electric rates on low-income customers. The work group should
16 evaluate the differences in income and rate effects among different
17 types of utilities: Consumer-owned and investor-owned; many customers
18 and few customers; and urban, suburban, and rural utilities. Based on
19 this information, the work group must report a range of potential
20 net-metering policies and the impact of those policies to each
21 identified type of utility. The work group may identify a preferred
22 net metering policy applicable to all utilities in the state or a set
23 of policies applicable to each type of utility. The work group shall
24 also provide an inventory of other state's net metering laws and
25 assess their applicability to the circumstances of different types of
26 utilities in Washington state.

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

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1 On page 1, beginning on line 1 of the title, after "generation;"
2 strike the remainder of the title and insert "creating a new section;
3 and providing an expiration date."

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

Removes the requirement for remaining unused kilowatt-hour (kWh) credit generated for the calendar year to be used to assist low-income residential utility customers.

Removes the requirement to include the total amount of kWh of electricity consumed for the most recent 12-month period on billing statements.

Removes direction to the building code council to study and adopt building code changes to encourage use of renewable energy systems.

Directs the work group to consider reduction in utility income associated with net metering policies and evaluate the effect of need changes to electric rates on low-income customers. The work group must report a range of net-metering policies and their impacts on different types of utilities.

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