

HB 481 -- NET METERING AND EASY CONNECTION ACT

SPONSOR: Berry

This bill changes the laws regarding the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Removes the requirement that a customer-generator has to have an electrical generating system with a capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts;

(2) Specifies that the qualified electric energy generation unit of a customer-generator is intended not to exceed 100% of its own energy requirement. Currently, it specifies that the unit is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-generator's own electrical energy requirements;

(3) Specifies that if, during the yearly billing period, the electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds the electricity supplied by the supplier, the customer-generator must be billed for the appropriate minimum bill for that billing period and all net excess energy must be carried forward from month-to-month and credited at a ratio of one-to-one against the customer-generator's energy consumption in subsequent months. Currently, if the electricity generated exceeds the electricity supplied by the supplier during a billing period, the customer-generator must be billed for the appropriate customer charges for that billing period and must be credited an amount at least equal to the avoided fuel cost of the excess kilowatt-hours generated during the billing period with the credit applied to the following billing period; and

(4) Repeals the provision requiring any credits to expire without compensation at the earlier of 12 months after their issuance or when the customer-generator disconnects service or terminates the net metering relationship with the supplier and the provision specifying that, for any rural electric cooperative or municipal utility, upon agreement of the wholesale generator supplying electric energy to the retail electric supplier and at the option of the retail electric supplier, the credit to the customer-generator may be provided by the wholesale generator. The bill specifies that net excess energy may be accumulated over multiple billing periods except any accumulated net excess energy remaining in a customer-generator's account must expire, without compensation, as of the earlier of the end of the March billing period of a 12-month billing period or when the customer-generator discontinues service or terminates net metering.