

HCS HB 340 -- NET METERING (Fitzwater (49))

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Utilities

This bill transfers certification authority of an energy resource as "renewable" from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Economic Development.

This bill also provides that an energy supplier may charge an owner or operator who becomes a customer-generator after August 28, 2017 a recurring monthly grid usage fee not to exceed 75% of the supplier's recurring monthly fixed customer or service availability charge to other customers. However, no customer-generator receiving service under a net metering tariff as of August 28, 2017 shall be charged the recurring monthly grid usage fee. Any excess energy generated by a customer-generator shall be applied to the customer-generator's own monthly grid usage fee with any remainder applied to the following billing period.

A retail electric supplier that is either a municipality or rural electric cooperative shall charge a separate fee in lieu of the recurring monthly grid usage fee if said retail electric supplier or the state completes a cost of service study and charges customer-generators no more in non-energy fees than its fixed costs per customer as determined by said study.

The bill also adds adequate surge protection to the list of components of a qualified electric energy generation unit that a retail electric supplier may require of customer-generators. Retail electric suppliers shall compensate customer-generators for the associated expenses of adequate surge protection if the customer-generator's system was installed and operational before August 28, 2017.

The bill additionally makes the sale of qualified electrical energy generation units subject to all applicable merchandising and consumer protection laws of Chapter 407, RSMo, and requires adequate surge protection for a customer-generator's generation unit.

This bill further requires the Missouri Division of Energy to review the comprehensive state energy plan implemented by the division by January 1, 2019. The plan shall be reviewed biennially thereafter to ensure certain enumerated goals and updated as needed. The division shall use a diverse stakeholder input system either directly or by contracting with a Missouri-based nonprofit organization and issue a report along with each review, suggesting policy changes.