

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 2268

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**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** Magnus and others

**Subject:** Interconnections between utilities and wind facilities

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### Overview

House File 2268 contains provisions relating to interconnections between a utility's system and wind energy facilities; creates the position of renewable energy development director in the Department of Commerce; and delays the expiration of the position of reliability administrator.

#### Section

- 1 Wind energy development; interconnection.** Requires an electric utility to act as agent for a wind energy developer seeking to interconnect with the utility's system in all interconnection applications, including those imposed by the regional transmission organization. The utility is responsible for conducting all interconnection tests.

Wind developers seeking such interconnection assistance must first provide the utility with a copy of the signed purchase agreement for the wind facility's proposed output, or a copy of a purchase order with a delivery date for equipment to construct the project and a copy of a signed receipt for a nonrefundable deposit.

- 2 Aggregation.** Requires a certificate of need for a high-voltage transmission line to include a requirement that, upon a showing that at least 20 megawatts of qualified wind energy conversion facilities has been aggregated, the proposer of the transmission line must provide a substation as an interconnection point to the new transmission system.

## Section

To trigger this requirement, wind developers must provide evidence of the following:

- their financial commitment to the project, as demonstrated by copies of the documents described in section 1;
- that the projects meet the eligibility requirements of section 216C.41, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), regarding capacity (i.e., produce less than 2 megawatts of electricity as measured by nameplate capacity) and ownership (are owned by a Minnesota small business; nonprofit organization; municipal utility; cooperative electric association; political subdivision; local government; local or regional board, commission or association; tribal council, if the facility is located within the reservation's boundaries; or an entity not prohibited from owning agricultural land under section 500.24 and that owns the land where the facility is sited);
- that the aggregation of the proposed projects is technically and economically feasible; and
- that a majority interest in the project is owned by residents of the county where the facility is located, or by residents of an adjacent county.

**3 Expiration.** Delays the expiration by four years, to June 30, 2010, of section 216C.052, which describes the appointment and duties of the reliability administrator of the Department of Commerce.

**4 Renewable energy development director.** Establishes the position of renewable energy development director in the Department of Commerce and describes the director's duties. This section expires June 30, 2010.