

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2903

DATE: March 3, 2008

Version: As amended by author's H2903A1

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Subject: Expanding definition of renewable energy

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House File 2903 expands the definition of biomass and renewable energy to include energy produced from wastewater effluent, sludge, or related byproducts, but excluding the incineration of wastewater sludge. The bill incorporates this definition in three places in the statutes:

- In the state's Renewable Energy Standard (section 216B.1691), which requires certain utilities to generate 25 percent of their electricity from renewable fuels by 2025, these materials are included in the definition of biomass, allowing its use to count towards a utility's target.
- Section 216B.2411 allows utilities to spend up to five percent of their required spending under the Conservation Improvement Program on renewable energy projects to generate electricity. This bill would allow wastewater effluent, sludge or related byproducts to be eligible renewable energy sources for that purpose.
- Section 216B.2422 requires Minnesota's largest utilities to file resource plans periodically with the Public Utilities Commission, providing information on the options for serving future demand from a variety of sources, including renewable energy, whose definition is enlarged to include wastewater effluent, sludge, or related byproducts.

The bill also extends the expiration date of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee by two years, to December 31, 2010, which applies to the seven-county metropolitan area.