

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2946

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Version: As introduced

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Subject: Tree planting for energy demand reduction

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House File 2946 would allow the strategic planting of trees or shrubs around a structure, to reduce the building's heating or cooling needs, an eligible expenditure under a utility's Conservation Improvement Program (CIP).

Currently, public utilities, cooperative electric associations and municipal utilities are required to spend a certain proportion of gross operating revenues (from 0.5 to 1.5 percent) on conservation investments that reduce customer demand, and may recover those expenses. In 2007, the legislature enacted a provision requiring utilities to reduce their demand by 1.5 percent annually.

The bill requires that the planting be placed on the property so as to maximize the resulting energy conservation, by shielding the structure from wind and/or sun.