

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

House File 3343 creates a program implemented by a nonprofit organization to aggregate the purchase of wind turbines and other wind system equipment by small wind developers and political subdivisions investing in wind projects.

Section

1 [216F.09] WECS aggregation program.

Subd. 1. Directs the entity selected to implement a Rural Wind Energy Development Assistance program in 2007 (Laws 2007, art. 2, sec. 3, subd. 6) to establish a wind aggregation program, i.e., a clearinghouse to coordinate and arrange umbrella purchases of wind turbines and other equipment for individuals, community-based energy developers, and political subdivisions.

Subd. 2. Responsibilities. Directs the entity to:

- establish application procedures;
- set minimum standards with respect to price, quality, performance, etc. for equipment to be considered for purchase under the program;
- set eligibility requirements for purchasers;

Section

- provide a framework for contacting manufacturers on behalf of participants;
and
- coordinate purchase agreements.

Subd. 3. Report. Directs the commissioner of commerce to report to the legislature by February 1, 2009 on program activities and results.

Subd. 4. Assessment; appropriation. Specifies that up to \$100,000 annually may be assessed by the Public Utilities Commission under the administrative costs of the Reliability Administrator for a grant to the entity in subdivision 1 to carry out this section's purposes.