

Subject Energy

Authors Stephenson

Analyst Bob Eleff

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Article 8: Energy Policy

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Section Description – Article 8: Energy Policy

- 1 **[16B.86] State building energy conservation improvement revolving loan account.**
Establishes an account managed by the commissioner of administration that provides revolving loans for energy conservation in state-owned buildings.
- 2 **[16B.87] Award and repayment of state building energy improvement conservation loans.**
Describes the content of a loan application. Requires loans to be made at or below the market interest rate, including zero interest, with a term no longer than seven years.
- 3 **[115B.431] Closed landfill solar development and reuse account.**
Establishes an account in the remediation fund in which revenues from lease payments from a lessor of a portion of closed landfill site managed by the Pollution Control Agency on which the lessor has installed a solar energy generating system are to be deposited.
- 4 **[116.155] Closed landfill solar development and reuse account.**
Provides that the account in section 3 is managed under section 115B.431.
- 5 **[116C.7792] Solar energy production incentive program.**
Extends Xcel's Solar Rewards program with allocations of \$5 million from the renewable development account in both 2023 and 2024.
- 6-8 **[116J.5491-116J.5493] Energy Transition Office.**
Establishes an Energy Transition Office in the Department of Employment and Economic Development to assist communities and workers experiencing economic dislocation as a result of the retirement of an electric generating plant. Establishes an advisory committee to develop a statewide energy transition plan.

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- 9-15 **[216B.096 – 216B.0976] Cold weather rule.**
Extends the Cold weather rule period, during which utilities may not disconnect customers who enter into and are compliant with an agreement with the utility to pay arrearages. The new period begins two weeks earlier (October 1) and ends two weeks later (April 30). Permits remote disconnections using advanced metering infrastructure. Requires utilities to send disconnection notices to the Department of Commerce.
- 16 **[216B.1691] Renewable energy objectives.**
Subd. 2f. Solar energy standard. Strikes obsolete language.
- 17 **[216B.241] Energy conservation improvement.**
Subd. 14. Minnesota efficient technology accelerator. Authorizes a nonprofit organization to file a proposal with the commissioner of commerce to collaborate with technology manufacturers to accelerate the development of energy efficient technologies whose deployment will result in cost-efficient energy savings for Minnesota consumers. Public utilities with more than 30,000 customers must make annual contributions to the program’s budget, capped at 2 percent of the utility’s CIP spending in the program’s first two years, 3.5 percent in the program’s third and fourth years, and 3.5 percent thereafter.
- 18 **[216B.2412] Decoupling of energy sales from revenues.**
Subd. 3. Pilot programs. Strikes language requiring the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to report to the legislature annually on decoupling pilot plans.
- 19 **[216B.2422] Resource planning; renewable energy.**
Subd. 2d. Plan to minimize impacts to workers due to facility retirement.
Requires integrated resource plans to contain a narrative describing a utility’s efforts to minimize worker dislocations arising from facility retirements.
- 20 **[216B.2427] Natural gas utility innovation plans.**
Authorizes a natural gas utility to file a plan with the PUC to obtain innovative resources that displace conventional natural gas, including renewable natural gas, power-to-hydrogen, power-to-ammonia, carbon dioxide capture, strategic electrification, and others. Programs must be cost-effective and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Plans have a term of five years. Sets caps on annual plan costs. The initial innovation plan must include programs to provide audits to small- and medium-sized businesses, target industrial facilities that cannot easily electrify, conduct deep energy retrofits and install cold-climate electric air-source heat pumps in residences, and expand district heating systems. In the absence of plan, a utility may deliver innovative resources to customers who elect to consume them under a

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- commission-approved green tariff program, and may recover costs for those resources that are up to five percent higher than the cost of conventional natural gas.
- 21 **[216B.2418] Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions accounting framework; cost benefit test for innovative resources.**
Requires the PUC to develop frameworks that natural gas utilities operating under an approved natural gas innovation plan must use to calculate greenhouse gas emissions intensities of individual innovative resources and to measure their cost-effectiveness.
- 22 **[216B.62] Regulatory expenses.**
Subd. 3b. Assessment for regional and national duties. Allows the Department of Commerce to assess utilities for its costs to analyze energy grid reliability at the state, regional, and national levels and requires the department to report on those efforts to the legislature by February 1, 2023.
- 23 **[216C.375] Solar for schools program.**
Establishes a program in the Department of Commerce to award grants to schools (K-12 and state colleges and universities) that install solar energy generating systems on or adjacent to school buildings. Systems may not exceed the smaller of 40 kw or 120 percent of the school’s annual electricity consumption, and must be located outside the electric service territory of the public utility that owns a nuclear generating plant in the state. Requires annual reports to the legislature on program activities.
- 24 **[216C.376] Solar for schools program for certain utility service territory.**
Authorizes the public utility that owns a nuclear generating plant in the state to file a plan with the PUC by October 1, 2021, to provide financial assistance to schools (K-12 and state colleges and universities) that install solar energy generating systems on or adjacent to school buildings. No more than 60 percent of grants may be awarded to schools where the proportion of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches is less than 50 percent. Requires annual reports to the legislature on program activities.
- 25 **[216F.012] Size election.**
Strikes language requiring the PUC to report to the legislature annually on variances not granted for small wind energy conversion systems.
- 26 **[216F.084] Wind turbine lighting systems.**
Requires a wind energy generating system issued a site permit or site permit amendment after July 1, 2021, to install a light-mitigating technology that minimizes

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- the duration or intensity of the lighting system and that meets Federal Aviation Administration requirements, unless doing so is technically infeasible, imposes a significant financial burden on the applicant, or the technology cannot be delivered by the vendor within a reasonable amount of time.
- 27 **Public Utilities Commission; evaluation of the role of natural gas utilities in achieving state greenhouse gas reduction goals.**
Requires the commission to initiate a proceeding no later than August 1, 2021, assessing the need to amend natural gas regulatory policies in order to facilitate achieving the state’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.
- 28 **Department of Administration; master solar contract program.**
Requires the Department of Administration to announce an open request for proposals for a new solar-photovoltaic statewide master contract by February 21, 2022.
- 29 **Agricultural weather study.**
Requests University of Minnesota trustees to conduct a study that generates weather model projections for a variety of weather parameters across the state, at a geographical level as small as three square miles.
- 30 **Clean energy careers pilot project.**
Requires the commissioner of employment and economic development to award a grant for a pilot project to provide training pathways to clean energy technical careers.
- 31 **Construction materials; environmental impact study.**
Requires the commissioner of the Department of Administration to contract with the University of Minnesota’s Center for Sustainable Building Research to examine the feasibility and economic and environmental costs and benefits of requiring vendors of certain construction materials used to construct state-owned buildings to provide information estimating their products’ lifecycle environmental impacts.



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