

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 208

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Subject: Defining electricity produced from burning solid waste as renewable energy

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- 1** **Renewable energy objectives.** Amends the definition of "eligible energy technology" to include "an energy recovery facility used to capture the heat value of solid waste or refuse derived fuel." Amending this definition would allow electricity generated by a waste-to-energy facility to count toward the "renewable energy objectives." Under these objectives, each generation and transmission cooperative, municipal power agency, and investor-owned utility is required to make a good faith effort to get 10 percent of their power supply from eligible energy technologies by 2015.

Requires a facility that uses an eligible energy technology based on the combustion of fuel to meet certain specified environmental protection standards.

Specifies that a renewable energy source may be blended or "co-fired" with other fuels, but that only the percentage of electricity attributable to the renewable energy source can be counted toward the renewable energy objectives.

- 2** **Definitions for integrated resource planning (IRP).** Amends the integrated resource planning definition of renewable energy to include "an energy recovery facility used to capture the heat value of solid waste or refuse derived fuel." Amending the definition of renewable energy as provided in this bill would require a utility to include waste-to-energy facilities in its analysis and planning, and include such facilities in a statutory preference for renewable energy.

Amending the definition of renewable energy in the IRP statute affects another renewable energy program, not mentioned in HF 208. The "green pricing program" in section 216B.169 requires each distribution utility to offer customers the option to purchase renewable energy. This statute cross-references the IRP statute for the definition of renewable energy. Thus,

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amending the IRP definition would qualify energy generated by waste-to-energy facilities for sale under the green pricing statute.