

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2834
Version: Second engrossment

DATE: March 31, 2014

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Subject: Energy policy omnibus

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Overview

House File 2834 is the energy policy omnibus bill containing various energy provisions.

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- 1** [216B.098] **Subd. 5. Medically necessary equipment.** Expands the medical professionals who can certify to a utility that a medical emergency exists or that medical equipment is necessary to sustain life, in order to prevent disconnection, to include a physician's assistant and LPN or RPN. Allows a utility to extend a certification from six to as many as 12 months. Allows a certification to be renewed. Requires a customer in arrears to enter into a payment agreement with a utility, which may forgive all or a portion of the delinquent amount.
- 2** [216B.16] **Subd. 14. Low-income electric rate discount.** Requires a utility with more than 200,000 electric customers to provide \$8 million annually, indexed to residential electricity rates, to fund a rate discount program for low-income customers. For low-income customers over the age of 62, the program must discount rates by \$15 monthly.
- 3** [216B.1611] **Project information.** Requires a utility to request certain data from applicants seeking to interconnect distributed renewable energy facilities, which the commissioner of commerce is required to develop a system to process so that aggregated information can be made public.
- 4** [216B.1614] **Electric vehicle charging tariff.** Requires public utilities to file a rate with the Public Utilities Commission by February 1, 2015, that governs the recharging of an electric vehicle battery. The rate must contain a time-of-day or off-peak rate and must allow a customer to choose that all of the energy supplied under the rate be generated from

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renewable sources. The Public Utilities Commission must approve the rate, which must be offered to customers within 60 days of approval.

- 5 **[216B.241] Subd. 5d. On-bill repayment program.** Authorizes utilities to offer a program allowing customers to repay a loan from an eligible lender for energy conservation or for utilization of a renewable energy source in installments on the customer's monthly energy bill. Utilities offering this program must enter into a contract with eligible lenders specifying that the risk of loan default remains with the lender, including loans that a public utility may purchase from a lender. The loan is an obligation only of the original borrower, not of any subsequent occupier of the property on which the energy investments were made.
- 6 **[216B.241] Subd. 5e. Commercial and multifamily buildings.** Requires the commissioner of commerce to solicit voluntary pilot projects from utilities to address energy efficiency in rented commercial or residential buildings, including multifamily residential buildings. The program may employ an on-bill payment mechanism with certain conditions.
- 7 **[216B.2422] Subd. 2c. Long-range emission reduction planning.** Requires utilities to include in their integrated resource plan submitted to the Public Utilities Commission a narrative identifying the costs, opportunities, and barriers on its system with respect to meeting the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- 8 **[216B.243] Subd. 8. Exemptions.** Exempts wind and solar facilities not owned and operated by a utility and whose output is not sold in Minnesota from obtaining a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission prior to construction.
- 9 **[216E.01] Subd. 8a. Solar energy generating system.** Definition.
- 10 **[216E.021] Solar energy system size determination.** Provides guidance to the commissioner of commerce to determine whether the capacity of several solar electric generating projects should be aggregated and considered as a single development for the purpose of determining whether the system is subject to the Public Utility Commission's siting authority jurisdiction, which is confined to projects with a capacity of 50 megawatts or more. Provides that the chair of the commission may override the commissioner's determination.
- 11 **[216E.04] Subd. 2. Applicable projects.** Specifies that solar generating facilities with a capacity of 50 megawatts or more are subject to the commission's siting authority under this chapter.
- 12 **[500.216] Limits on certain residential solar energy systems prohibited.** Authorizes an owner of a single-family dwelling who is a member of a homeowner association to install a solar energy system subject to certain restrictions. Allows homeowner associations to modify a homeowners' design within certain parameters.
- 13 **[515.07] Compliance with covenants, bylaws, and rules.** Conforming language, adding statutory reference to section 12.
- 14 **[515B.2-103] Construction and validity of declaration and bylaws.** Conforming language,

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adding statutory reference to section 12.

- 15** **[515B.3-102] Powers of unit owners' association.** Conforming language, adding statutory reference to section 12.
- 16** **[Laws 2013, ch. 57, § 2] Transmission line; certificate of need required and evidence required.** Requires a certificate of need prior to construction for the rebuilding of a certain high voltage transmission line in the metropolitan area.
- 17** **Legislative Energy Commission; propane conversion strategies.** Requires the legislative Energy Commission to investigate the feasibility of substituting natural gas and renewable fuel sources for propane used for heat outside the metropolitan area.