

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

House File 1678 increases and extends the state's Renewable Energy Standard; establishes a new energy emergency conservation and fuel supply allocation plan; and establishes new requirements and procedures for siting large solar projects.

Section

1 [216B.1691] Subd. 2a. Eligible energy technology standard. Increases the required proportion of a utility's retail sales that must be generated by an eligible (renewable) technology. The 2020 standard rises from 20 to 25 percent, and the 2025 standard from 25 to 32 percent. A new standard of 40 percent is established for 2040. New standards are also established for Xcel Energy: 35 percent in 2025 and 40 percent in 2030.

2 [216C.155] Energy assurance and emergency conservation plan.

Subd. 1. Plan requirements. Requires the commissioner of commerce to develop a plan that outlines the state's energy risks and establishes priorities for long-term preparedness. The plan is to be updated at least every five years.

Subd. 2. Long-term preparedness. Lists preparedness goals, including reducing energy demand and increasing the utilization of Minnesota energy sources.

Subd. 3. Emergency energy conservation protocols. Requires the commissioner of commerce to establish protocols for responding to an energy emergency.

Subd. 4. Emergency energy allocation protocols. Requires the commissioner of commerce to establish guidelines to allocate energy supplies to critical facilities

Section

during an energy emergency. Facilities requesting emergency allocations must have developed their own emergency conservation plan.

Subd. 5. Declaration of energy supply emergency. Specifies the criteria for a declaration of an energy supply emergency, and how it may be terminated.

- 3 [216C.16] **Subd. 1. Purpose.** Specifies that this section grants the commissioner authority to address prolonged petroleum shortages.
- 4 [216C.16] **Subd. 2. Establishment.** Authorizes the commissioner to establish a set-aside system for gasoline and middle distillates during a prolonged petroleum shortage.
- 5 [216C.165] **Petroleum end user program.** Authorizes the commissioner to implement a program to allocate gasoline, middle distillates, and propane during a supply emergency. Certifies priority end users. Establishes an appeal process for end users.
- 6 [216C.31] **Energy audit programs.** Allows the commissioner to approve programs for energy auditors, in addition to the current authority to develop such programs.
- 7 [216E.01] **Subd. 5. Large electric power generating plant.** Specifies that a solar energy generating system of 10 MW or greater is defined as a “large electric power generating plant” under this chapter, which governs the Public Utilities Commission’s issuance of site permits for such projects.
- 8 [216E.021] **Solar energy system size determination.** Specifies that an application to a county for a site permit for a solar energy generating system with a capacity of 1 MW or greater must have undergone a size determination under this section.
- 9 [216E.03] **Subd. 3. Application.** Specifies that an applicant for a site permit for a solar energy generating system must propose only one site, not two or more, as other large electric generating projects are required to do.
- 10 [216E.05] **Subd. 2. Applicable projects.** Prohibits solar energy generating systems from seeking approval to construct projects from local units of government.
- 11 [216E.055] **Solar facility permit authority; assumption by counties.** Allows a county to assume responsibility for processing applications for solar energy generating systems up to 25 MW, provided that it is authorized by the county board and notices given to the Public Utilities Commission. A county that elects to do so may approve, revoke, or set conditions upon site permits.
- Requires the commission to, by order, establish general permit standards for solar energy generating systems that apply to permits issued by a county. Counties may, by resolution, adopt more stringent standards than the commission’s, and those more stringent standards must be applied by the commission unless it finds good cause not to do so. The commission and the commissioner of commerce shall provide technical assistance to counties with respect to processing site permit applications.
- 12 **Repealer.** Repeals section 216C.15, which governs the state’s existing emergency energy conservation and allocation plan.