

SENATE BILL 271

C5

11r1285
CF HB 275

By: **Senator Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2011

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Net Energy Metering – Hydroelectric**

3 FOR the purpose of including in the definition of eligible customer–generators that are
4 eligible for net energy metering a customer that uses a certain type of
5 hydroelectric generating facility; defining a certain term; and generally relating
6 to net energy metering.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Public Utilities
9 Section 7–306(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2010 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Public Utilities
14 Section 7–306(b)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2010 Replacement Volume)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Public Utilities**

20 7–306.

21 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (2) “Biomass” means “qualified biomass” as defined in § 7–701 of this
23 title.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) **“CLOSED CONDUIT HYDRO” MEANS A HYDROELECTRIC**
2 **GENERATING FACILITY THAT GENERATES ELECTRICITY WITHIN EXISTING**
3 **PIPING OR LIMITED ADJACENT PIPING OF A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.**

4 (4) **“Eligible customer-generator”** means a customer that owns and
5 operates, leases and operates, or contracts with a third party that owns and operates a
6 biomass, micro combined heat and power, solar, fuel cell, [or] wind, **OR CLOSED**
7 **CONDUIT HYDRO** electric generating facility that:

8 (i) is located on the customer’s premises or contiguous property;

9 (ii) is interconnected and operated in parallel with an electric
10 company’s transmission and distribution facilities; and

11 (iii) is intended primarily to offset all or part of the customer’s
12 own electricity requirements.

13 **[(4)](5)** **“Fuel cell”** means an electric generating facility that:

14 (i) includes integrated power plant systems containing a stack,
15 tubular array, or other functionally similar configuration used to electrochemically
16 convert fuel to electric energy; and

17 (ii) may include:

18 1. an inverter and fuel processing system; and

19 2. other plant equipment to support the plant’s
20 operation or its energy conversion, including heat recovery equipment.

21 **[(5)](6)** **“Generation credit”** means a credit associated with the
22 generation of electricity produced in excess of the electricity consumed by an eligible
23 customer-generator in one billing period.

24 **[(6)](7)** **“Micro combined heat and power”** means the simultaneous
25 or sequential production of useful thermal energy and electrical or mechanical power
26 not exceeding 30 kilowatts.

27 **[(7)](8)** **“Net energy metering”** means measurement of the difference
28 between the electricity that is supplied by an electric company and the electricity that
29 is generated by an eligible customer-generator and fed back to the electric grid over
30 the eligible customer-generator’s billing period.

31 (b) The General Assembly finds and declares that a program to provide net
32 energy metering for eligible customer-generators is a means to encourage private
33 investment in renewable energy resources, stimulate in-State economic growth,

1 enhance continued diversification of the State's energy resource mix, and reduce costs
2 of interconnection and administration.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2011.