

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1307

(Delegate Franchot)

Environmental Matters

Public Utility Companies - Net Energy Metering - Definitions

This bill expands the definition of an eligible customer-generator relating to residences and schools for the purposes of net energy metering. It eliminates some provisions of the definition and increases the maximum capacity of a qualifying solar electrical generating facility from 80 to 500 kilowatts.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's changes could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An eligible customer-generator is defined as a customer that is served by an electric company at:

- a single-family dwelling, which is a residence or principal residence of the customer on a general service tariff;
- a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school; or
- a public or nonpublic institution of postsecondary education.

The eligible customer-generator must own and operate a solar electrical generating facility that:

- has a capacity of not more than 80 kilowatts;
- is located on the customer's premises;
- is interconnected and operated in parallel with an electric company's transmission and distribution facilities; and
- is intended primarily to offset all or part of the customer's own electricity requirements.

Background: Chapter 484 of 1997 established the solar net energy metering program to: (1) encourage private investment in renewable energy resources; (2) stimulate in-state economic growth; (3) enhance continued diversification of the State's energy resource mix; and (4) reduce costs of interconnection and administration. While the rated generating capacity for the program is capped in statute at 34.722 megawatts, the Public Service Commission reports that the program generates substantially less than one megawatt annually in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission, Office of People's Counsel, Department of Legislative Services

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lsc/jr

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