

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1269  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Walkup, *et al.*)

Finance

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**Electric Companies - Net Energy Metering - Wind Electric Generating Facilities**

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This bill adds wind electric generating systems to the systems eligible for net energy metering and expands the categories of eligible customer-generators.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not materially affect State government operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill removes the following limitations from the definition of eligible customer-generator:

- 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.

**Current Law:** An 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 solar net energy metering 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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** In 2003, HB 1126, a similar bill, was assigned to House Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2004  
ncs/hlb

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