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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 4381

03/11/2020 Authored by Long, Stephenson and Bierman
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Division

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; eliminating the renewable qualifying facility avoided cost
1.3 pricing requirement; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 216B.164,
1.4 subdivision 4.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 216B.164, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 4. Purchases; wheeling; costs. (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph
1.8 (c), this subdivision shall apply to all qualifying facilities having 40-kilowatt capacity or
1.9 more as well as qualifying facilities as defined in subdivision 3 and net metered facilities
1.10 under subdivision 3a, if interconnected to a cooperative electric association or municipal
1.11 utility, or 1,000-kilowatt capacity or more if interconnected to a public utility, which elect
1.12 to be governed by its provisions.

1.13 (b) The utility to which the qualifying facility is interconnected shall purchase all energy
1.14 and capacity made available by the qualifying facility. The qualifying facility shall be paid
1.15 the utility's full avoided capacity and energy costs as negotiated by the parties, as set by the
1.16 commission, or as determined through competitive bidding approved by the commission.
1.17 The full avoided capacity and energy costs to be paid a qualifying facility that generates
1.18 electric power by means of a renewable energy source are the utility's least cost renewable
1.19 energy facility or the bid of a competing supplier of a least cost renewable energy facility,
1.20 whichever is lower, unless the commission's resource plan order, under section 216B.2422,
1.21 subdivision 2, provides that the use of a renewable resource to meet the identified capacity
1.22 need is not in the public interest.

- 2.1 (c) For all qualifying facilities having 30-kilowatt capacity or more, the utility shall, at
2.2 the qualifying facility's or the utility's request, provide wheeling or exchange agreements
2.3 wherever practicable to sell the qualifying facility's output to any other Minnesota utility
2.4 having generation expansion anticipated or planned for the ensuing ten years. The
2.5 commission shall establish the methods and procedures to insure that except for reasonable
2.6 wheeling charges and line losses, the qualifying facility receives the full avoided energy
2.7 and capacity costs of the utility ultimately receiving the output.
- 2.8 (d) The commission shall set rates for electricity generated by renewable energy.