

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 178

AN ACT

To repeal section 386.890, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to net metering.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 386.890, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 386.885 and 386.890, to read as follows:

386.885. 1. There is hereby established the "Task Force on Distributed Energy Resources and Net Metering", which shall be composed of the following members:

(1) Three members of the senate, with two appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and one appointed by the minority floor leader of the senate;

(2) Three members of the house of representatives, with two appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one appointed by the minority floor leader of the house of representatives;

(3) The director of the division of energy, or his or her designee, to serve as a member and to provide technical assistance to the task force;

(4) The chairman of the public service commission, or his or her designee, to serve as a member and to provide technical assistance;

(5) A representative from each of the three segments of the retail electric energy industry appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate from the respective nominees submitted by the statewide associations of the investor-owned electric utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and municipally-owned electric utilities;

(6) Two representatives of the retail distributed energy resources industry appointed by the chairman of the public service commission; and

(7) One representative each of retail residential and commercial electric consumers appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.

2. The task force shall conduct public hearings and research, and shall compile a report for delivery to the general assembly by no later than December 31, 2021. Such report shall include information on the following:

(1) A distributed energy resources study, which shall include a value of solar study along with the practical and economic benefits, challenges, and drawbacks of increased distributed energy generation in the state;

(2) The fair and equitable setting of rates between distributed generation and non-distributed generation consumers; and

(3) Potential legislation, including but not limited to changes to the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act, if any, that would promote the overall public interest.

3. The task force shall meet within thirty days after its creation and shall organize by selecting a chairperson and vice chairperson, one of whom shall be a member of the senate and the other a member of the house of representatives. Thereafter, the task force may meet as often as necessary in order to accomplish the tasks assigned to it. A majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of such quorum shall be required for any action.

4. The staff of house research and senate research shall provide necessary clerical, research, fiscal, and legal services to the task force, as the task force may request.

5. The division of energy shall oversee the distributed energy resources study to be selected and conducted by an independent and objective expert with input from the members of the task force. The cost of said study shall be paid for through funds available from federal and state grants applied for by the division of energy. The division of energy shall establish procedures for the submission and non-public disclosure of confidential and propriety information.

6. The members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but any actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the task force's official duties by the task force, its members, and any staff assigned to the task force shall be paid from the joint contingent fund.

7. This section shall expire on December 31, 2021.

386.890. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Net Metering and Easy Connection Act".

2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Avoided fuel cost", the current average cost of fuel for the entity generating electricity, as defined by the governing body with jurisdiction over any municipal electric utility, rural electric cooperative as provided in chapter 394, or electrical corporation as provided in this chapter;

(2) "Commission", the public service commission of the state of Missouri;

(3) "Customer-generator", the owner or operator of a qualified electric energy generation unit which:

(a) Is powered by a renewable energy resource;

(b) Has an electrical generating system with a capacity of not more than one hundred kilowatts;

(c) Is located on a premises owned, operated, leased, or otherwise controlled by the customer-generator;

(d) Is interconnected and operates in parallel phase and synchronization with a retail electric supplier and has been approved by said retail electric supplier;

(e) Is intended [primarily to offset part or all] and designed not to exceed one hundred percent of the customer-generator's own electrical energy requirements;

(f) Meets all applicable safety, performance, interconnection, and reliability standards established by the National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Underwriters Laboratories, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and any local governing authorities; and

(g) Contains a mechanism that automatically disables the unit and interrupts the flow of electricity back onto the supplier's electricity lines in the event that service to the customer-generator is interrupted;

(4) "Department", the department of [economic development] natural resources;

(5) "Net metering", using metering equipment sufficient to measure the difference between the electrical energy supplied to a customer-generator by a retail electric supplier and the electrical energy supplied by the customer-generator to the retail electric supplier over the applicable billing period;

(6) "Renewable energy resources", electrical energy produced from wind, solar thermal sources, hydroelectric sources, photovoltaic cells and panels, fuel cells using hydrogen produced by one of the above-named electrical energy sources, and other sources of energy that become available after August 28, 2007, and are certified as renewable by the department;

(7) "Retail electric supplier" or "supplier", any [municipal] municipally owned electric utility operating under chapter 91, electrical corporation regulated by the commission under this chapter, or rural electric cooperative operating under chapter 394 that provides retail electric service in this state. An electrical corporation that operates under a cooperative business plan as described in subsection 2 of section 393.110 shall be deemed to be a rural electric cooperative for purposes of this section.

3. A retail electric supplier shall:

(1) Make net metering available to customer-generators on a first-come, first-served basis until the total rated generating capacity of net metering systems equals five percent of the [utility's] retail electric supplier's single-hour peak load during the previous year, after which the commission for [a public utility] an electrical corporation or the respective governing body [for] of other [electric utilities] retail electric suppliers may increase the total rated generating capacity of net metering systems to an amount above five percent. However, in a given calendar year, no retail electric supplier shall be required to approve any application for interconnection if the total rated generating capacity of all applications for interconnection already approved to date by said supplier in said calendar year equals or exceeds one percent of said supplier's single-hour peak load for the previous calendar year;

(2) Offer to the customer-generator a tariff or contract that is identical in electrical energy rates, rate structure, and monthly charges to the contract or tariff that the customer would be assigned if the customer were not an eligible customer-generator but shall not charge the customer-generator any additional standby, capacity,

interconnection, or other fee or charge that would not otherwise be charged if the customer were not an eligible customer-generator; and

(3) Disclose annually the availability of the net metering program to each of its customers with the method and manner of disclosure being at the discretion of the supplier.

4. A customer-generator's facility shall be equipped with sufficient metering equipment that can measure the net amount of electrical energy produced or consumed by the customer-generator. If the customer-generator's existing meter equipment does not meet these requirements or if it is necessary for the retail electric supplier to install additional distribution equipment to accommodate the customer-generator's facility, the customer-generator shall reimburse the retail electric supplier for the costs to purchase and install the necessary additional equipment. At the request of the customer-generator, such costs may be initially paid for by the retail electric supplier, and any amount up to the total costs and a reasonable interest charge may be recovered from the customer-generator over the course of up to twelve billing cycles. Any subsequent meter testing, maintenance or meter equipment change necessitated by the customer-generator shall be paid for by the customer-generator.

5. Consistent with the provisions in this section, the net electrical energy measurement shall be calculated in the following manner:

(1) For a customer-generator, a retail electric supplier shall measure the net electrical energy produced or consumed during the billing period in accordance with normal metering practices for customers in the same rate class, either by employing a single, bidirectional meter that

measures the amount of electrical energy produced and consumed, or by employing multiple meters that separately measure the customer-generator's consumption and production of electricity;

(2) If the electricity supplied by the supplier exceeds the electricity generated by the customer-generator during a billing period, the customer-generator shall be billed for the net electricity supplied by the supplier in accordance with normal practices for customers in the same rate class;

(3) If the electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds the electricity supplied by the supplier during a billing period, the customer-generator shall be billed for the appropriate customer charges for that billing period in accordance with subsection 3 of this section and shall be credited an amount at least equal to the avoided fuel cost of the excess kilowatt-hours generated during the billing period, with this credit applied to the following billing period;

(4) Any credits granted by this subsection shall expire without any compensation at the earlier of either twelve months after their issuance or when the customer-generator disconnects service or terminates the net metering relationship with the supplier;

(5) For any rural electric cooperative under chapter 394, or **[municipal]** any municipally owned utility, upon agreement of the wholesale generator supplying electric energy to the retail electric supplier, at the option of the retail electric supplier, the credit to the customer-generator may be provided by the wholesale generator.

6. (1) Each qualified electric energy generation unit used by a customer-generator shall meet all applicable safety, performance, interconnection, and reliability

standards established by any local code authorities, the National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and Underwriters Laboratories for distributed generation. No supplier shall impose any fee, charge, or other requirement not specifically authorized by this section or the rules promulgated under subsection 9 of this section unless the fee, charge, or other requirement would apply to similarly situated customers who are not customer-generators, except that a retail electric supplier may require that a customer-generator's system contain a switch, circuit breaker, fuse, or other easily accessible device or feature located in immediate proximity to the customer-generator's metering equipment that would allow a utility worker the ability to manually and instantly disconnect the unit from the utility's electric distribution system.

(2) For systems of ten kilowatts or less, a customer-generator whose system meets the standards and rules under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be required to install additional controls, perform or pay for additional tests or distribution equipment, or purchase additional liability insurance beyond what is required under subdivision (1) of this subsection and subsection 4 of this section.

(3) For customer-generator systems of greater than ten kilowatts, the commission for [public utilities] electrical corporations and the respective governing body for other [utilities] retail electric suppliers shall, by rule or equivalent formal action by each respective governing body:

(a) Set forth safety, performance, and reliability standards and requirements; and

(b) Establish the qualifications for exemption from a requirement to install additional controls, perform or pay

for additional tests or distribution equipment, or purchase additional liability insurance.

7. (1) Applications by a customer-generator for interconnection of a qualified electric energy generation unit meeting the requirements of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section to the distribution system shall be accompanied by the plan for the customer-generator's electrical generating system, including but not limited to a wiring diagram and specifications for the generating unit, and shall be reviewed and responded to by the retail electric supplier within thirty days of receipt for systems ten kilowatts or less and within ninety days of receipt for all other systems. Prior to the interconnection of the qualified generation unit to the supplier's system, the customer-generator will furnish the retail electric supplier a certification from a qualified professional electrician or engineer that the installation meets the requirements of subdivision (1) of subsection 6 of this section. If the application for interconnection is approved by the retail electric supplier and the customer-generator does not complete the interconnection within one year after receipt of notice of the approval, the approval shall expire and the customer-generator shall be responsible for filing a new application.

(2) Upon the change in ownership of a qualified electric energy generation unit, the new customer-generator shall be responsible for filing a new application under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

8. Each [commission-regulated supplier] electrical corporation shall submit an annual net metering report to the commission, and all other [nonregulated] retail electric suppliers shall submit the same report to their respective governing body and make said report available to a consumer

of the supplier upon request, including the following information for the previous calendar year:

- (1) The total number of customer-generator facilities;
- (2) The total estimated generating capacity of its net-metered customer-generators; and
- (3) The total estimated net kilowatt-hours received from customer-generators.

9. The commission shall, within nine months of January 1, 2008, promulgate initial rules necessary for the administration of this section for [public utilities] electrical corporations, which shall include regulations ensuring that simple contracts will be used for interconnection and net metering. For systems of ten kilowatts or less, the application process shall use an all-in-one document that includes a simple interconnection request, simple procedures, and a brief set of terms and conditions. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2007, shall be invalid and void.

10. The governing body of a rural electric cooperative or municipal utility shall, within nine months of January 1, 2008, adopt policies establishing a simple contract to be used for interconnection and net metering. For systems of ten kilowatts or less, the application process shall use an

all-in-one document that includes a simple interconnection request, simple procedures, and a brief set of terms and conditions.

11. For any cause of action relating to any damages to property or person caused by the qualified electric energy generation unit of a customer-generator or the interconnection thereof, the retail electric supplier shall have no liability absent clear and convincing evidence of fault on the part of the supplier.

12. The estimated generating capacity of all net metering systems operating under the provisions of this section shall count towards the respective retail electric supplier's accomplishment of any renewable energy portfolio target or mandate adopted by the Missouri general assembly.

13. The sale of qualified electric energy generation units to any customer-generator shall be subject to the provisions of sections 407.010 to 407.145 and sections 407.700 to 407.720. The attorney general shall have the authority to promulgate in accordance with the provisions of chapter 536 rules regarding mandatory disclosures of information by sellers of qualified electric energy generation units. Any interested person who believes that the seller of any qualified electric energy generation unit is misrepresenting the safety or performance standards of any such systems, or who believes that any electric energy generation unit poses a danger to any property or person, may report the same to the attorney general, who shall be authorized to investigate such claims and take any necessary and appropriate actions.

14. Any costs incurred under this act by a retail electric supplier shall be recoverable in that utility's rate structure.

15. No consumer shall connect or operate [an] a qualified electric energy generation unit in parallel phase and synchronization with any retail electric supplier without written approval by said supplier that all of the requirements under subdivision (1) of subsection 7 of this section have been met. For a consumer who violates this provision, a supplier may immediately and without notice disconnect the electric facilities of said consumer and terminate said consumer's electric service.

16. The manufacturer of any qualified electric energy generation unit used by a customer-generator may be held liable for any damages to property or person caused by a defect in the qualified electric energy generation unit of a customer-generator.

17. The seller, installer, or manufacturer of any qualified electric energy generation unit who knowingly misrepresents the safety aspects of [an] a qualified electric generation unit may be held liable for any damages to property or person caused by the qualified electric energy generation unit of a customer-generator.