

1 S.196

2 Introduced by Senator Rodgers

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Energy; public service; renewable electric generation; net metering

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to remove the
7 existing limit on the cumulative output capacity of net metering systems. So
8 that net metering customers contribute to the cost of maintaining and operating
9 the grid, the bill also proposes to require these customers to pay the monthly
10 customer charge billed by the electric company.

11 An act relating to the regulation of net metering systems

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 219a(h)(1) is amended to read:

14 (h)(1) An electric company:

15 (A) Shall make net metering available to any customer using a net
16 metering system or group net metering system ~~on a first come, first served~~
17 ~~basis until the cumulative output capacity of net metering systems equals 4.0~~
18 ~~percent of the distribution company's peak demand during 1996; or the peak~~
19 ~~demand during the most recent full calendar year, whichever is greater. The~~

1 ~~Board may raise the 4.0 percent cap. In determining whether to raise the cap,~~
2 ~~the Board shall consider the following:~~

3 ~~(i) the costs and benefits of net metering systems already~~
4 ~~connected to the system; and~~

5 ~~(ii) the potential costs and benefits of exceeding the cap, including~~
6 ~~potential short and long term impacts on rates, distribution system costs and~~
7 ~~benefits, reliability and diversification costs and benefits;~~

8 (B) Shall allow net metering systems to be interconnected using a
9 kilowatt-hour meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in two
10 directions or such other comparably equipped meter that would otherwise be
11 applicable to the customer's usage but for the use of net metering;

12 (C) May, at its own expense, and with the written consent of the
13 customer, install one or more additional meters to monitor the flow of
14 electricity in each direction;

15 (D) Except as otherwise provided in this section, shall charge the
16 customer a minimum monthly fee that is the same as for other customers of the
17 electric distribution company in the same rate class, but shall not charge the
18 customer any additional standby, capacity, interconnection, or other fee
19 or charge;

20 * * *

1 Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 219a(e) is amended to read:

2 (e) Consistent with the other provisions of this title, electric energy
3 measurement for net metering systems using a single nondemand meter that
4 are not group systems shall be calculated in accordance with subdivisions
5 (1)-(3) of this subsection, and electric energy measurement for net metering
6 systems that use other types of meters shall be calculated in accordance with
7 subdivision (4) of this subsection.

8 (1) The electric company ~~which~~ that serves the net metering customer
9 shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed during the customer's
10 billing period, in accordance with normal metering practices.

11 (2) If the electricity supplied by the electric company exceeds the
12 electricity generated by the customer and fed back to the electric distribution
13 system during the billing period, the customer shall be billed for the net
14 electricity supplied by the electric company, in accordance with normal
15 metering practices.

16 (3) If electricity generated by the customer exceeds the electricity
17 supplied by the electric company:

18 (A) The electric company shall calculate a monetary credit to the
19 customer by multiplying the excess kWh generated during the billing period by
20 the kWh rate paid by the customer for electricity supplied by the company and
21 shall apply the credit to any remaining energy usage and energy efficiency

1 charges on the customer's bill for that period. The monetary credit shall not
2 apply to the fixed monthly customer charge on the customer's bill;

3 (B) If application to such energy usage and energy efficiency charges
4 does not use the entire balance of the credit, the remaining balance of the credit
5 shall appear on the customer's bill for the following billing period; and

6 (C) Any accumulated credits shall be used within 12 months, or shall
7 revert to the electric company, without any compensation to the customer.

8 Power reverting to the electric company under this subdivision (3) shall be
9 considered SPEED resources under section 8005 of this title.

10 (4) For a net metering system serving a customer on a demand or
11 time-of-use rate schedule, the manner of measurement and the application of
12 bill credits for the electric energy produced or consumed shall be substantially
13 similar to that specified in this subsection for use with a single nondemand
14 meter. However, if such a net metering system is interconnected directly to the
15 electric company through a separate meter whose primary purpose is to
16 measure the energy generated by the system:

17 (A) The bill credits shall apply to all kWh generated by the net
18 metering system and shall be calculated as if the customer were charged the
19 kWh rate component of the interconnecting company's general residential rate
20 schedule that consists of two rate components: a service charge and a kWh

1 rate, excluding time-of-use rates and demand rates. The bill credits shall not
2 apply to the fixed monthly customer charge.

3 (B) If a company's general residential rate schedule includes
4 inclining block rates, the residential rate used for this calculation shall be the
5 highest of those block rates.

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7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on passage.