

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5131

By Delegate Foster

[Introduced January 25, 2024; Referred to the Committee
on Energy and Manufacturing then the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §24-2F-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to net metering; modifying method for determining rebate or discounts to customers; and
 3 requiring compliance with certain national codes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2F. ALTERNATIVE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD.

§24-2F-8. Net metering and interconnection standards.

1 (a) "Net metering" means measuring the difference between electricity supplied by an
 2 electric utility and electricity generated from a facility owned or leased and operated by a customer
 3 generator when any portion of the electricity generated from the facility is used to offset part or all
 4 of the electric retail customer's requirements for electricity.

5 (b) "Customer-generator" means an electric retail customer who owns or leases and
 6 operates a customer-sited generation projected utilizing an alternative or renewable energy
 7 resource or a net metering system in this state.

8 (c) "Cross-subsidization", for purposes of this section, means the practice of charging
 9 costs directly incurred by the electric utility in accommodating a net metering system to electric
 10 retail customers to electric retails customers who are not customer generators.

11 (d) "Commission" means the Public Service Commission of West Virginia as constituted
 12 pursuant to §24-1-3 of this code.

13 (e) The commission shall adopt a rule requiring that all electric utilities provide a rebate or
 14 discount ~~at fair value, to be determined by the commission~~ that is equal to the energy only supply
 15 rate of the utility to customer-generators for any electricity generation that is delivered to the utility
 16 under a net metering arrangement. The commission shall assure that any net metering tariff does
 17 not create a cross-subsidization between customers within one class of service.

18 (f) The commission shall also consider adopting, by rule, a requirement that all sellers of
 19 electricity to retail customers in the state, including rural electric cooperatives, municipally owned
 20 electric facilities or utilities serving less than 30,000 residential electric customers in this state,

21 offer net metering rebates or discounts to customer-generators.

22 (g) ~~The commission shall institute a general investigation for the purpose of adopting rules~~
23 ~~pertaining to net metering and the interconnection of eligible electric generating facilities intended~~
24 ~~to operate in parallel with an electric utility's system. As part of its investigation, the commission~~
25 ~~shall take into consideration rules of other states within the applicable region of the regional~~
26 ~~transmission organization, as that term is defined in 18 C.F.R. §35.34, that manages a utility's~~
27 ~~transmission system in any part of this state. Furthermore, the commission shall consider~~
28 increasing the allowed kilowatt capacity for commercial customer-generators to an amount not to
29 exceed 500 kilowatts and for industrial customer-generators to an amount not to exceed two
30 megawatts. The commission shall further consider interconnection standards for combined heat
31 and power.

32 (h) An electric utility shall offer net metering to a customer-generator that generates
33 electricity on the customer-generator side of the meter using alternative or renewable energy
34 sources, on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date of application for interconnection as
35 provided in the rules promulgated by the commission and pursuant to a standard tariff. An electric
36 utility may offer net metering to customer-generators, on a first-come, first-served basis, so long as
37 the total generation capacity installed by all customer-generators is no greater than three percent
38 (3%) of the electric utility aggregate customer peak demand in the state during the previous year,
39 of which no less than one-half percent (0.5%) is reserved for residential customer-generators.

40 (i) The commission shall adopt a rule requiring compliance with the National Electric Code
41 (NEC), Institute of the Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and Underwriters Laboratories
42 (UL), and as the same shall be amended, standards at all times, including having a disconnect
43 readily accessible to the utility between the facilities of the customer-generator and the electric
44 utility.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to modify the method for determining rebates or discounts

to customers regarding net metering of electricity. It also requires the Public Service Commission to require compliance with certain national codes.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.