

House File 149 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 149

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring specified utilities to establish a solar
2 energy bank program for the benefit of qualifying low-income
3 customers.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 476.6, subsection 15, Code 2015, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *i.* (1) A rate-regulated utility required to
4 submit an energy efficiency plan under this subsection shall
5 include within that plan a solar energy bank program for the
6 benefit of customers who are eligible to participate in the
7 low income home energy assistance program or weatherization
8 assistance program administered by the division of community
9 action agencies of the department of human rights and who are
10 behind in their energy bill payments by an amount or duration
11 to be determined by the board by rule.

12 (2) The solar energy bank program shall consist of
13 allocations of excess energy generated by solar energy
14 production facilities beyond amounts necessary for the
15 facility's own use, which have been purchased by the utility.
16 For the purposes of this paragraph "i", a "solar energy
17 production facility" means a facility eligible for the renewable
18 energy tax credit pursuant to chapter 476C or the solar energy
19 system tax credit pursuant to section 422.11L.

20 (3) A utility shall utilize standard interconnection
21 agreements or a model interconnection agreement developed
22 by the board for utilization by the owner of a solar energy
23 production facility seeking to interconnect with an electric
24 utility at rates established pursuant to section 476.43.
25 Electricity purchased pursuant to the solar energy bank program
26 shall be allocated to the solar energy bank to be credited
27 on a pro rata or other basis as determined by the board by
28 rule against energy bills for customers qualifying pursuant to
29 subparagraph (1).

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill requires a rate-regulated utility that is required
34 to submit an energy efficiency plan pursuant to Code section
35 476.6 to include within that plan a solar energy bank program

1 for the benefit of customers who are eligible to participate in
2 the low income home energy assistance program or weatherization
3 assistance program administered by the division of community
4 action agencies of the department of human rights and who are
5 behind in their energy bill payments by an amount or duration
6 to be determined by the board by rule. The bill provides that
7 the solar energy bank program shall consist of allocations of
8 excess energy generated by solar energy production facilities
9 beyond amounts necessary for the facility's own use, which have
10 been purchased by the utility. The bill provides that a "solar
11 energy production facility" means a facility eligible for the
12 renewable energy tax credit pursuant to Code chapter 476C or
13 the solar energy system tax credit pursuant to Code section
14 422.11L.

15 The bill directs the utility to utilize standard
16 interconnection agreements or a model interconnection agreement
17 developed by the utilities board for utilization by the owner
18 of a solar energy production facility seeking to interconnect
19 with an electric utility at rates established pursuant to Code
20 section 476.43. Electricity purchased pursuant to the program
21 shall be allocated to the solar energy bank to be credited on
22 a pro rata or other basis as determined by the board by rule
23 against energy bills for qualifying low-income customers.