

First Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 21-0250.01 Duane Gall x4335

SENATE BILL 21-261

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fenberg and Priola, Bridges, Buckner, Jaquez Lewis, Lee, Winter

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Valdez A. and Amabile,

Senate Committees

Transportation & Energy

House Committees

Energy & Environment

Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO INCREASE THE DEPLOYMENT OF  
102 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES TO MEET  
103 COLORADO'S ENERGY NEEDS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,  
104 RAISING THE ALLOWABLE CAPACITY OF CUSTOMER-SITED  
105 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES, GIVING  
106 CUSTOMERS ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR INCREASING THE SCALE  
107 AND FLEXIBILITY OF NEW INSTALLATIONS, AND MAKING AN  
108 APPROPRIATION.

Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at*

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
June 4, 2021

SENATE  
Amended 3rd Reading  
May 20, 2021

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 19, 2021

<http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

**Section 1** of the bill declares that customer-sited renewable energy generation facilities (distributed generation) such as rooftop solar panels, together with increased storage capacity and enhanced master meter operations, can make important contributions toward meeting Colorado's declared goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while providing a reliable, adaptable supply of electricity for homes, businesses, and the rapidly increasing numbers of electric vehicles.

**Sections 3 and 5** remove most of the existing limitations on the size of distributed generation facilities, which currently cannot exceed 120% of a customer's historical annual usage, to qualify for renewable energy credits. Section 3 also expands an existing exemption from regulation as a public utility to include persons who sell excess power from distributed generation located anywhere on their property or on property owned or leased by others in a master meter operation, e.g., an apartment building or mobile home park. **Section 4** grants master meter operators (MMOs) that sell power from distributed generation a limited exemption from the general requirement not to charge their end users any amount above what they are billed for electricity supplied by the serving electric utility. MMOs may retain refunds, rebates, rate reductions, net metering credits, and similar reductions offered by the serving utility in its net metering program but may not charge end users at a rate higher than the serving utility's otherwise applicable rate for that class of utility customer.

Section 5 requires a qualifying retail utility to allow, and to adopt standards for the approval of, customer-owned meter collar adapters in residential installations. The public utilities commission (PUC) retains authority to resolve any disputes concerning the standards or their application in specific cases. **Section 2** defines a meter collar adapter as a device installed between the electric meter and the meter socket box that allows the customer to interconnect power from on-site sources.

Section 5 also:

- Requires qualifying retail utilities, under the standard offer to purchase renewable energy credits, to purchase energy produced from any renewable energy resources rather than exclusively solar energy resources;
- Doubles the allowable size of on-site renewable energy installations under the standard offer, from 500 kilowatts to one megawatt;
- Narrows the requirements for small hydroelectric facilities that qualify as renewable energy resources to exclude those that require the construction of new dams or reservoirs;
- Adds renewable energy storage as an eligible energy resource under the renewable energy standard and defines "renewable energy storage" as a facility that stores energy

- that is derived only from renewable energy resources;
- Allows a customer to carry forward monthly bill credits from distributed generation indefinitely, at any service address within a qualifying retail utility's service territory, unless the customer chooses to be reimbursed annually; and
- Directs the PUC to adopt rules to accommodate the aggregation and interconnection of retail distributed generation, including the pooling of renewable energy resources under a master meter or similar arrangement and the allocation of credits among customers on different rate schedules.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds, determines, and declares that:

4 (a) The state of Colorado has established the goal of cutting  
5 greenhouse gas emissions by at least twenty-six percent by 2025, fifty  
6 percent by 2030, and ninety percent by 2050;

7 (b) In order to meet these goals, much of Colorado's heating,  
8 electrical generation, and transportation systems will be increasingly  
9 reliant on renewable energy;

10 (c) Although large-scale renewable energy generation resources  
11 will make up most of Colorado's overall electric energy supply in the  
12 future, distributed generation plays a significant and increasingly  
13 important role because:

14 (I) Distributed generation reduces the need for investment in  
15 expensive, long-term projects to develop transmission facilities, which are  
16 required to bring energy from centralized power sources to the end user;

17 (II) When a producer exports excess electricity from distributed  
18 generation onto the state's power grid, the electricity is quickly consumed  
19 by nearby users, reducing the losses incurred in long-distance

1 transmission over power lines;

2 (III) Distributed generation and storage has the potential to be  
3 used in advanced demand-response programs to create a more efficient  
4 and resilient grid as well as reduce the need for investments in expensive,  
5 yet rarely used, peaker plants;

6 (IV) Distributed generation, especially when paired with energy  
7 storage, creates a reliable energy source that is less vulnerable to natural  
8 disasters and grid failures; and

9 (V) Consumers and local governments increasingly want to have  
10 more local control over their energy decisions for both environmental and  
11 economic reasons, making local distributed generation investments an  
12 appealing option;

13 (d) Consumers and businesses are increasingly relying on electric  
14 vehicles for transportation, therefore enhancing the importance of  
15 abundant, locally produced power for recharging;

16 (e) Beneficial electrification policies and technological  
17 advancements will result in consumers switching their existing space  
18 heating and water heating systems to efficient electric heat pumps and  
19 water heaters, which will increase the electricity demands of homes and  
20 businesses;

21 (f) Colorado law currently limits the capacity of customer-sited  
22 photovoltaic solar generating facilities to only twenty percent over a  
23 customer's previous annual on-site energy usage, an artificial and  
24 increasingly unrealistic barrier to Coloradans' ability to address their  
25 future electricity and energy storage needs;

26 (g) Due to economies of scale, it is more cost-effective for  
27 consumers to install a larger photovoltaic system based on projected

1 electricity needs rather than needing to supplement their system later  
2 when their electric load increases;

3 (h) Measuring and enforcing such a limitation on the size of  
4 customer-sited distributed generation creates unnecessary and costly  
5 administrative burdens on both consumers and utilities; and

6 (i) It is in the public interest, and would serve Colorado's stated  
7 policy goal of decarbonizing our electric power supply system, to remove  
8 this arbitrary limit on customer-sited solar generation facilities and retail  
9 distributed generation facilities, to allow for off-site generation, and to  
10 reform other outdated regulations that hinder the efficient development  
11 of clean energy resources.

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-1-102, **add** (8.5)  
13 as follows:

14 **40-1-102. Definitions.** As used in articles 1 to 7 of this title 40,  
15 unless the context otherwise requires:

16 (8.5) "METER COLLAR ADAPTER" MEANS A DEVICE THAT IS  
17 INSTALLED BETWEEN THE ELECTRIC METER AND THE METER SOCKET BOX  
18 ON A UTILITY CUSTOMER'S PREMISES AND THAT HAS ELECTRICAL  
19 CONNECTION POINTS BOTH ELECTRICALLY UPSTREAM AND ELECTRICALLY  
20 DOWNSTREAM OF THE METER.

21 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-1-103, **amend**  
22 (2)(c) as follows:

23 **40-1-103. Public utility defined.** (2) (c) The supply of electricity  
24 or heat to a consumer of the electricity or heat from ~~solar generating~~  
25 ~~equipment located on the site of the consumer's property, which~~  
26 ~~equipment is~~ RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES owned or  
27 operated by an entity other than the consumer, ~~shall~~ INCLUDING A MASTER

1 METER OPERATOR, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 40-1-103.5, DOES NOT SUBJECT  
2 THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE ~~ON-SITE SOLAR GENERATING EQUIPMENT~~  
3 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES TO REGULATION AS A PUBLIC  
4 UTILITY BY THE COMMISSION IF THE ~~SOLAR GENERATING EQUIPMENT IS SIZED TO~~  
5 ~~SUPPLY NO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY PERCENT OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL~~  
6 ~~CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY BY THE CONSUMER AT THAT SITE. FOR PURPOSES OF~~  
7 ~~THIS PARAGRAPH (C), THE CONSUMER'S SITE SHALL INCLUDE ALL CONTIGUOUS~~  
8 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES ARE LOCATED ON PROPERTY  
9 OWNED OR LEASED BY EITHER:

10 (I) THE CONSUMER; ~~WITHOUT REGARD TO INTERRUPTIONS IN CONTIGUITY~~  
11 ~~CAUSED BY EASEMENTS, PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES, TRANSPORTATION RIGHTS-OF-WAY,~~  
12 ~~OR UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY. OR~~

13 (II) A MASTER METER OPERATOR OR ANOTHER CONSUMER SERVED  
14 BY THE MASTER METER OPERATOR.

15 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-1-103.5, **amend**  
16 (1) introductory portion, (1)(a), and (3) as follows:

17 **40-1-103.5. Limited exemption of master meter operators -**  
18 **conditions - rules - definition.** (1) Upon its own motion or upon  
19 application by any person who purchases gas or electric service from a  
20 regulated public utility for the purpose of delivery of such service to end  
21 users whose aggregate usage is to be measured by a master meter or other  
22 composite measurement device, the commission may exempt such person  
23 from regulation of rates under the "Public Utilities Law", articles 1 to 7  
24 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 40, as the commission deems appropriate, so long as all  
25 of the following conditions are met:

26 (a) Such person, referred to in this section as a "master meter  
27 operator" or "MMO", does not charge the end users, as part of its billing

1 for utility service, for any costs in addition to the actual cost billed to the  
2 MMO by the serving utility, including without limitation costs of  
3 construction, maintenance, financing, administration, metering, or billing  
4 for the utility distribution system owned by the MMO; EXCEPT THAT THIS  
5 SUBSECTION (1)(a) DOES NOT APPLY TO REFUNDS, REBATES, RATE  
6 REDUCTIONS, NET METERING CREDITS, OR SIMILAR ADJUSTMENTS  
7 ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE USE OF ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM RETAIL  
8 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION THAT IS LOCATED ON PROPERTY OWNED OR  
9 LEASED BY THE MMO OR BY A CUSTOMER SERVED BY THE MMO.

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11 (3) (a) The commission shall adopt such rules as it deems  
12 necessary to implement this section.

13

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14 (b) NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2022, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
15 ADOPT NEW OR AMENDED RULES THAT WOULD ENABLE LANDLORDS OF  
16 MULTI-UNIT BUILDINGS AND TENANTS IN MULTI-UNIT BUILDINGS TO SHARE  
17 IN THE PRODUCTION FROM A NET METERED RETAIL DISTRIBUTED  
18 GENERATION INSTALLATION. IN ADOPTING RULES, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
19 CONSIDER COLORADO'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION-REDUCTION GOALS  
20 AND THE NEED TO ELECTRIFY BUILDINGS, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER  
21 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS TO MEET THOSE GOALS. THE  
22 COMMISSION SHALL ALSO CONSIDER RULES THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE  
23 LANDLORDS TO BEAR THE ATTENDANT COSTS AND TO RETAIN AT LEAST A  
24 PORTION OF THE RESULTING BENEFITS IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER  
25 INCENTIVES THE COMMISSION FINDS APPROPRIATE.

26

27 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-2-124, **amend**  
(1)(a) introductory portion, (1)(a)(IV), (1)(a)(VII), (1)(a)(VIII),

1 (1)(c)(II)(B), (1)(e) introductory portion, (1)(e)(I), (1)(e)(II), (1)(e)(III),  
2 and (1.5); and **add** (1)(a)(IV.5), (1)(a)(VII.5), (1)(e)(IV), and (1)(j) as  
3 follows:

4 **40-2-124. Renewable energy standards - qualifying retail and**  
5 **wholesale utilities - definitions - net metering - legislative declaration.**

6 (1) Each provider of retail electric service in the state of Colorado, other  
7 than municipally owned utilities that serve forty thousand customers or  
8 fewer, is a qualifying retail utility. Each qualifying retail utility, with the  
9 exception of cooperative electric associations that have voted to exempt  
10 themselves from commission jurisdiction pursuant to section 40-9.5-104  
11 and municipally owned utilities, is subject to the rules established under  
12 this article 2 by the commission. No additional regulatory authority is  
13 provided to the commission other than that specifically contained in this  
14 section. In accordance with article 4 of title 24, the commission shall  
15 revise or clarify existing rules to establish the following:

16 (a) Definitions of eligible energy resources that can be used to  
17 meet the standards. "Eligible energy resources" means recycled energy,  
18 **and** renewable energy resources, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY STORAGE. In  
19 addition, resources using coal mine methane and synthetic gas produced  
20 by pyrolysis of municipal solid waste MATERIALS are eligible energy  
21 resources if the commission determines that the electricity generated by  
22 those resources is greenhouse gas neutral. The commission shall  
23 determine, following an evidentiary hearing, the extent to which such  
24 electric generation technologies utilized in an optional pricing program  
25 may be used to comply with this standard. A fuel cell using hydrogen  
26 derived from an eligible energy resource is also an eligible electric  
27 generation technology. Fossil and nuclear fuels and their derivatives are



1 not eligible energy resources. For purposes of this section:

2 (IV) "Greenhouse gas neutral", with respect to electricity  
3 generated USING BIOMASS OR by a coal mine methane or synthetic gas  
4 facility, means that the ~~volume of greenhouse gases emitted into the~~  
5 atmosphere ~~from~~ AS A RESULT OF the ~~conversion~~ PROCESS of CONVERTING  
6 THE fuel SOURCE to electricity is no greater than the volume of DO NOT  
7 EXCEED THE greenhouse gases that would have been emitted into the  
8 atmosphere over the next five years, beginning with the ~~planned~~  
9 COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROCESS OR INITIAL date of operation of the  
10 facility, if the fuel SOURCE had not been converted to electricity, where  
11 greenhouse gases are measured in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent.

12 (IV.5) "OFF-SITE" MEANS LOCATED ON NONCONTIGUOUS  
13 PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY A CUSTOMER OF A QUALIFYING RETAIL  
14 UTILITY.

15 (VII) "Renewable energy resources" means solar, wind,  
16 geothermal, biomass THAT IS GREENHOUSE GAS NEUTRAL, new  
17 hydroelectricity with a nameplate rating of ten megawatts or less, and  
18 hydroelectricity in existence on January 1, 2005, with a nameplate rating  
19 of thirty megawatts or less AND THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE THE  
20 CONSTRUCTION OF ANY NEW DAMS OR RESERVOIRS. NOTWITHSTANDING  
21 ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(a)(VII), A BIOMASS  
22 ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITY THAT WAS IN EXISTENCE ON OR BEFORE  
23 JANUARY 1, 2021, OR THAT HAS A NAMEPLATE RATING OF TEN  
24 MEGAWATTS OR LESS, SHALL BE CONSIDERED A RENEWABLE ENERGY  
25 RESOURCE.

26 (VII.5) "RENEWABLE ENERGY STORAGE" MEANS AN ENERGY  
27 STORAGE SYSTEM, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-2-130 (2)(a), THAT STORES

1 ENERGY PRODUCED ONLY BY RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES.

2 (VIII) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(II)(D) OF THIS  
3 SECTION WITH RESPECT TO COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS, "retail  
4 distributed generation" means a renewable energy resource OR  
5 RENEWABLE ENERGY STORAGE that is located on ~~the site of a customer's~~  
6 ~~facilities~~ ANY PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE CUSTOMER WITHIN  
7 THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY and is  
8 interconnected on the customer's side of the utility meter. In addition,  
9 retail distributed generation shall provide electric energy primarily to  
10 serve the customer's load LOADS and shall be sized to supply no more than  
11 oneTWO hundred twenty percent of the REASONABLY EXPECTED average  
12 annual TOTAL consumption of electricity by the customer at that site. For  
13 purposes of this subparagraph (VIII), the customer's "site" includes all  
14 contiguous property owned or leased by the customer without regard to  
15 interruptions in contiguity caused by easements, public thoroughfares,  
16 transportation rights-of-way, or utility rights-of-way AT ALL PROPERTIES  
17 OWNED OR LEASED BY THE CUSTOMER WITHIN THE UTILITY'S SERVICE  
18 TERRITORY.

19 (c) Electric resource standards:

20 (II) (B) ~~Solar generating equipment located on-site at customers'~~  
21 ~~facilities shall be sized to supply no more than one hundred twenty~~  
22 ~~percent of the average annual consumption of electricity by the consumer~~  
23 ~~at that site. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph (B), the consumer's~~  
24 ~~"site" shall include all contiguous property owned or leased by the~~  
25 ~~consumer, without regard to interruptions in contiguity caused by~~  
26 ~~easements, public thoroughfares, transportation rights-of-way, or utility~~  
27 ~~rights-of-way~~ A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY THAT IS INVESTOR-OWNED

1 SHALL NOT LIMIT THE SIZING OF ON-SITE RETAIL DISTRIBUTED GENERATION  
2 CAPACITY BASED SOLELY ON PAST CONSUMPTION. COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
3 ASSOCIATIONS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1)(c)(II)(B).

4 (e) A REQUIREMENT THAT EACH QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY,  
5 EXCEPT FOR COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS AND MUNICIPALLY  
6 OWNED UTILITIES, MAKE AVAILABLE TO THEIR CUSTOMERS A standard  
7 rebate offer ~~program~~ AND NET METERING SERVICE, under which:

8 (I) (A) ~~Each qualifying retail utility, except for cooperative~~  
9 ~~electric associations and municipally owned utilities, shall make available~~  
10 ~~to its retail electricity customers a standard rebate offer of~~ CUSTOMERS  
11 ARE OFFERED a specified amount per watt for the installation of eligible  
12 solar electric generation on THE customers' premises, up to a maximum  
13 of one hundred kilowatts per installation.

14 (A.5) A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S INTERCONNECTION  
15 STANDARDS FOR DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES MUST ALLOW FOR  
16 CUSTOMER OWNERSHIP AND USE OF A METER COLLAR ADAPTER TO PERMIT  
17 THE INTERCONNECTION OF DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES AND FOR  
18 ELECTRICAL ISOLATION OF THE CUSTOMER'S SITE FOR ENERGY BACKUP  
19 PURPOSES. THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL, WITHIN ONE HUNDRED  
20 EIGHTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION  
21 (1)(e)(I)(A.5), ADOPT A TRANSPARENT PROCESS FOR APPROVING  
22 CUSTOMER-OWNED METER COLLAR ADAPTERS THAT MEET MINIMUM  
23 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. THE COMMISSION SHALL RESOLVE ANY DISPUTES  
24 CONCERNING THE SUBSTANCE OR PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN THE  
25 APPROVAL PROCESS OR ITS APPLICATION IN ANY SPECIFIC CASE. THE  
26 APPROVAL PROCESS MUST TAKE NO MORE THAN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE  
27 DATE OF SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF A SPECIFIC METER COLLAR

1 ADAPTER BY THE PROPOSING PARTY. APPROVED METER COLLAR ADAPTERS  
2 MUST BE UL LISTED AND MUST BE SUITABLE PER THE ADAPTER'S UL  
3 LISTING DOCUMENTATION FOR USE IN METER SOCKETS OF UP TO TWO  
4 HUNDRED AMPERES. THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL DEFINE AND  
5 PUBLISH IN ITS TARIFFS A PROCESS TO REQUEST AND INSTALL A METER  
6 COLLAR ADAPTER, WHICH PROCESS IS TIMELY AND NOT UNDULY  
7 BURDENSOME TO THE CUSTOMER. THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL  
8 POST ON ITS WEBSITE ITS LIST OF APPROVED METER COLLAR ADAPTERS,  
9 WHICH LIST MUST BE UPDATED AT LEAST ANNUALLY.

10 (B) The ~~standard rebate offer shall~~ QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S  
11 NET METERING SERVICE MUST allow the customer's retail electricity  
12 consumption to be offset by the solar electricity generated BY  
13 CUSTOMER-SITED RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES. To the  
14 extent that solar THE electricity generation THUS GENERATED exceeds the  
15 customer's consumption during a billing month, ~~such~~ THE QUALIFYING  
16 RETAIL UTILITY SHALL CARRY FORWARD THE VALUE OF THE excess  
17 electricity ~~shall be carried forward~~ as a credit to the following month's  
18 CUSTOMER'S consumption ~~To the extent that solar electricity generation~~  
19 ~~exceeds the customer's consumption during a calendar year, the customer~~  
20 ~~shall be~~ IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH. THE MONTHLY CARRY-FORWARD  
21 CONTINUES FROM MONTH TO MONTH INDEFINITELY UNTIL THE CUSTOMER  
22 TERMINATES SERVICE WITH THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY AT ALL  
23 SERVICE ADDRESSES WITHIN THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF THE QUALIFYING  
24 RETAIL UTILITY, AT WHICH TIME THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY IS NOT  
25 REQUIRED TO PAY THE CUSTOMER FOR ANY REMAINING EXCESS  
26 ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED BY THE CUSTOMER; EXCEPT THAT, TO THE EXTENT  
27 THAT SOLAR ELECTRICITY GENERATION EXCEEDS THE CUSTOMER'S

1 CONSUMPTION DURING A CALENDAR YEAR, THE CUSTOMER MAY ELECT, IN  
2 WRITING, TO BE reimbursed by the qualifying retail utility AT THE END OF  
3 EACH CALENDAR YEAR at ~~its~~ THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S average  
4 hourly incremental cost of electricity supply over ~~the prior twelve-month~~  
5 ~~period unless the customer makes a one-time election, in writing, to~~  
6 ~~request that the excess electricity be carried forward as a credit from~~  
7 ~~month to month indefinitely until the customer terminates service with the~~  
8 ~~qualifying retail utility, at which time no payment shall be required from~~  
9 ~~the qualifying retail utility for any remaining excess electricity supplied~~  
10 ~~by the customer~~ THAT CALENDAR YEAR. THE CUSTOMER, AT THE END OF  
11 THE CALENDAR YEAR, AND THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY, UPON  
12 TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO THE CUSTOMER, SHALL BE PERMITTED TO  
13 DONATE ANY OF THE CUSTOMER'S REMAINING EXCESS BILLING CREDITS TO  
14 A THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR THAT IS QUALIFIED AND APPROVED BY  
15 THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY OR THE COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE  
16 OF PROVIDING LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND BILL REDUCTIONS  
17 WITHIN THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S SERVICE TERRITORY. The  
18 qualifying retail utility shall not apply unreasonably burdensome  
19 ~~interconnection~~ requirements to INTERCONNECTION, REIMBURSEMENT, OR  
20 DONATION OPTIONS in connection with ~~this standard rebate offer~~ THE  
21 QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S NET METERING SERVICE. Electricity  
22 generated under this program ~~shall be~~ IS eligible for PURPOSES OF the  
23 qualifying retail utility's compliance with this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 2 SO LONG  
24 AS THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY PURCHASES THE ASSOCIATED  
25 RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS. THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT PERMIT A  
26 QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY TO PLACE A CUSTOMER IN A DIFFERENT RATE  
27 CLASS, OTHER THAN THE CUSTOMER'S DEFAULT RATE CLASS, SOLELY AS A


1 RESULT OF THE CUSTOMER'S PARTICIPATION IN A REBATE OFFER OR NET  
2 METERING SERVICE.

3 (C) FOR RETAIL DISTRIBUTED GENERATION THAT IS USED TO MEET  
4 LOADS OF A NONCONTIGUOUS PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE  
5 CUSTOMER, A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S NET METERING PROGRAM  
6 MUST PROVIDE THE CUSTOMER A NET METERING CREDIT MINUS A  
7 REASONABLE CHARGE, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, TO COVER  
8 THE UTILITY'S COSTS OF DELIVERING TO THE CUSTOMER'S PREMISES THE  
9 ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY THE RETAIL DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND  
10 OF ADMINISTERING THE OFF-SITE NET METERING CREDITS. THE  
11 REASONABLE CHARGE SHALL BE FIXED FOR THE TERM OF THE  
12 INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO THE RETAIL DISTRIBUTED  
13 GENERATION FACILITIES AND SHALL BE DETERMINED BY A UTILITY TARIFF  
14 FILING, WHICH MAY BE UPDATED ONCE ANNUALLY. THE COMMISSION  
15 SHALL ENSURE THAT THIS CHARGE DOES NOT REFLECT COSTS THAT ARE  
16 ALREADY RECOVERED BY THE UTILITY FROM THE CUSTOMER THROUGH  
17 OTHER CHARGES. IF, AND TO THE EXTENT THAT, A CUSTOMER'S NET  
18 METERING CREDIT EXCEEDS THE CUSTOMER'S ELECTRIC BILL IN ANY  
19 BILLING PERIOD, THE NET METERING CREDIT SHALL BE CARRIED FORWARD  
20 AND APPLIED AGAINST FUTURE BILLS.

21 (D) THE COMMISSION MAY PERMIT A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY  
22 TO LIMIT THE TOTAL AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD ON BEHALF OF A  
23 CUSTOMER PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(e)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION SO  
24 LONG AS THE LIMIT IS NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE  
25 CUSTOMER'S REASONABLY EXPECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION.  
26 ANY EXCESS ELECTRICITY ABOVE THE LIMIT SHALL BE REIMBURSED AT  
27 THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S AVERAGE HOURLY INCREMENTAL COST

1 OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY OVER THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING  
2 TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD.

3 (E) FOR THE 2022 AND 2023 COMPLIANCE YEARS, EACH  
4 QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL ISSUE ONE OR MORE STANDARD OFFERS  
5 TO INTERCONNECT AND NET METER OFF-SITE, CUSTOMER-OWNED  
6 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND SHALL RESERVE, FOR THIS PURPOSE,  
7 CAPACITY EQUAL TO ONE-QUARTER OF ONE PERCENT OF THE UTILITY'S  
8 ANNUAL RETAIL SALES FROM THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR.  
9 THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION MAY SET LIMITS, BASED ON MARKET  
10 DEMAND, ON ANNUAL MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AVAILABLE CAPACITY FOR  
11 NEWLY INSTALLED OFF-SITE DISTRIBUTED GENERATION THAT THE  
12 QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL PLAN TO INTERCONNECT AND NET  
13 METER. THE CUSTOMER MAY CHOOSE TO RETAIN OR SELL TO THE  
14 QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY THE CUSTOMER'S RENEWABLE ENERGY  
15 CREDITS.

16 

17 (II) ~~Sales of electricity to a consumer may be made by~~ The owner  
18 or operator of the solar electric generation facilities located on the site of  
19 the consumer's property if the solar generating equipment is sized to  
20 supply no more than one hundred twenty percent of the average annual  
21 consumption of electricity by the consumer at that site. For purposes of  
22 this subparagraph (H), the consumer's site shall include all contiguous  
23 ANY property owned or leased by the consumer, ~~without regard to~~  
24 ~~interruptions in contiguity caused by easements, public thoroughfares,~~  
25 ~~transportation rights-of-way, or utility rights-of-way~~ WHICH PROPERTY IS  
26 WITHIN THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY, MAY  
27 SELL ELECTRICITY TO THE CONSUMER. If ~~the~~ A solar electric generation

1 facility is not owned by the consumer, then THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT  
2 REQUIRE the qualifying retail utility ~~shall not be required by the~~  
3 ~~commission~~ to pay for the renewable energy credits generated by the  
4 facility on any basis other than a metered basis. The owner or operator of  
5 the solar electric generation facility shall pay the cost of installing the  
6 production meter.

7 (III) The qualifying retail utility may establish one or more  
8 standard offers to purchase renewable energy credits generated from ~~the~~  
9 ~~eligible solar electric generation~~ ELIGIBLE ENERGY RESOURCES on the  
10 customer's premises so long as ~~the generation meets the size and location~~  
11 ~~requirements set forth in subparagraph (H) of this paragraph (c) and so~~  
12 ~~long as~~ the generation is ~~five hundred kilowatts~~ ONE MEGAWATT or less  
13 in size. When establishing the standard offers, THE QUALIFYING RETAIL  
14 UTILITY SHOULD SET the prices for renewable energy credits ~~should be set~~  
15 at levels sufficient to encourage increased ~~customer-sited solar~~  
16 DISTRIBUTED generation AND RENEWABLE ENERGY STORAGE in the size  
17 ranges covered by each standard offer, but at levels that will still allow  
18 the qualifying retail utility to comply with the electric resource standards  
19 set forth in ~~paragraph (c) of this subsection (1)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS  
20 SECTION without exceeding the retail rate impact limit in ~~paragraph (g) of~~  
21 ~~this subsection (1)~~. ~~The commission shall encourage qualifying retail~~  
22 ~~utilities to design solar programs that allow consumers of all income~~  
23 ~~levels to obtain the benefits offered by solar electricity generation and~~  
24 ~~shall allow programs that are designed to extend participation to~~  
25 ~~customers in market segments that have not been responding to the~~  
26 ~~standard offer program~~ SUBSECTION (1)(g) OF THIS SECTION.

27 (IV) THE COMMISSION SHALL ENCOURAGE QUALIFYING RETAIL



1 UTILITIES TO DESIGN REBATE OFFERS AND OTHER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS  
2 THAT ALLOW CONSUMERS OF ALL INCOME LEVELS, PARTICULARLY THOSE  
3 IN LOW-INCOME AND DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES, TO  
4 OBTAIN THE BENEFITS OFFERED BY DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND  
5 ENERGY STORAGE, AND SHALL ENCOURAGE PROGRAMS THAT ARE  
6 DESIGNED TO EXTEND PARTICIPATION TO CUSTOMERS IN THESE AND OTHER  
7 MARKET SEGMENTS THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNDERREPRESENTED  
8 IN THE STANDARD OFFER PROGRAM.

9 (j) RULES TO ACCOMMODATE AGGREGATION AND  
10 INTERCONNECTION OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTED GENERATION, INCLUDING:

11 (I) ALLOWING ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM A SINGLE  
12 RENEWABLE RETAIL DISTRIBUTED GENERATION RESOURCE ON A  
13 MULTI-UNIT PROPERTY TO BE ALLOCATED AS NET METERING CREDITS TO  
14 EITHER COMMON AREAS OF THE PROPERTY OR TO INDIVIDUALLY METERED  
15 ACCOUNTS WITHOUT REQUIRING THE RESOURCE TO BE PHYSICALLY  
16 INTERCONNECTED WITH EACH OWNER'S OR LESSEE'S METER;

17 (II) ALLOWING A UTILITY CUSTOMER WITH RETAIL DISTRIBUTED  
18 GENERATION INTERCONNECTED WITH A MASTER METER TO ALLOCATE  
19 EXCESS NET METERING CREDITS TO ANY METER ON PROPERTY OWNED OR  
20 LEASED BY THE CUSTOMER IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CUSTOMER-DEFINED  
21 SYSTEM SHARE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL METER, WITH EXCESS NET  
22 METERING CREDITS APPLIED TO THE ADDITIONAL METER;

23 (III) WHERE RETAIL DISTRIBUTED GENERATION IS BEING USED TO  
24 OFFSET THE LOAD OF MULTIPLE, SEPARATELY METERED PROPERTIES THAT  
25 ARE NOT ON THE SAME RATE SCHEDULE, ALLOWING ALLOCATION OF THE  
26 BILL CREDITS THAT MAY BE APPLIED TO ANY OF THE METERED ACCOUNTS;

27 (IV) REQUIRING QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITIES TO APPLY THE SAME

1 INSTALLATION STANDARDS AND LIST OF APPROVED METER COLLAR  
2 ADAPTERS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(e)(I)(A.5) OF THIS  
3 SECTION TO ALL CUSTOMERS DESIRING TO USE RETAIL DISTRIBUTED  
4 GENERATION TO OFFSET THEIR INDIVIDUAL ENERGY LOADS; ■

5 (V) REQUIRING QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITIES TO DEVELOP  
6 OPTIONAL PROGRAMS AND TARIFFS TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION AND USE  
7 OF DISPATCHABLE RENEWABLE DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND STORAGE  
8 RESOURCES TO PROVIDE GRID BENEFITS, SUCH AS ENHANCING THE  
9 EFFICIENCY, CAPACITY, AND RESILIENCE OF THE ELECTRIC GRID, AND TO  
10 REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION  
11 (1)(j)(V), "DISPATCHABLE" MEANS THAT THE POWER OUTPUT SUPPLIED TO  
12 THE ELECTRIC GRID BY A CUSTOMER-SITED RENEWABLE ENERGY  
13 GENERATION OR STORAGE FACILITY CAN BE TURNED ON AND OFF OR  
14 OTHERWISE ADJUSTED ON DEMAND.

15 (VI) REQUIRING QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITIES TO ADOPT  
16 PROCEDURES DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT, FOR ALL RENEWABLE  
17 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION OR STORAGE FACILITIES INCLUDED IN THEIR  
18 NET METERING SERVICE:

19 (A) THE SIZE OF ANY OFF-SITE, SINGLE-METER INSTALLATION DOES  
20 NOT EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED KILOWATTS;

21 (B) THE SIZE OF ANY OFF-SITE, MULTI-METER INSTALLATION DOES  
22 NOT EXCEED THREE HUNDRED KILOWATTS PER METER; AND

23 (C) FOR ANY OFF-SITE FACILITY EXCEEDING THREE HUNDRED  
24 KILOWATTS, THE INSTALLATION AND ANY NECESSARY REPAIR OR  
25 MAINTENANCE WORK IS PERFORMED BY A LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN,  
26 LICENSED JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN, OR LICENSED RESIDENTIAL  
27 WIREMAN OR BY PROPERLY SUPERVISED APPRENTICES, IN ADDITION TO

1 COMPLYING WITH ALL APPLICABLE INTERCONNECTION RULES.

2 (1.5) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
3 ~~paragraph (c) of subsection (1)~~ SUBSECTIONS (1)(e) AND (1)(j) of this  
4 section shall DO not apply to a municipally owned utility or to a  
5 cooperative electric association.

6 **SECTION 6. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2021-22 state fiscal  
7 year, \$91,488 is appropriated to the department of regulatory agencies for  
8 use by the public utilities commission. This appropriation is from the  
9 public utilities commission fixed utility fund created in section 40-2-114  
10 (1)(b)(II), C.R.S. To implement this act, the commission may use this  
11 appropriation as follows:

12 (a) \$83,938 for personal services, which amount is based on an  
13 assumption that the commission will require an additional 1.0 FTE; and

14 (b) \$7,550 for operating expenses.

15 **SECTION 7. Applicability.** This act applies to contracts for  
16 distributed generation and energy storage facilities executed on or after  
17 the effective date of this act.

18 **SECTION 8. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
19 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.