

Senate Bill 658

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Increases maximum allowable electricity generating capacity of net metering facilities. Changes measure by which utilities value excess kilowatt hours generated by customer-generators.
Applies to electricity billing periods beginning on or after effective date of Act.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to net metering; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 757.300.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 757.300 is amended to read:

5 757.300. (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Customer-generator" means a user of a net metering facility.

7 (b) "Electric utility" means a public utility, a people's utility district operating under ORS
8 chapter 261, a municipal utility operating under ORS chapter 225 or an electric cooperative organ-
9 ized under ORS chapter 62.

10 (c) "Net metering" means measuring the difference between the electricity supplied by an elec-
11 tric utility and the electricity generated by a customer-generator and fed back to the electric utility
12 over the applicable billing period.

13 (d) "Net metering facility" means a facility for the production of electrical energy that:

14 (A) Uses solar, wind, fuel cell or hydroelectric power to generate electricity;

15 (B) Has a generating capacity of not more than [25] **250** kilowatts;

16 (C) Is located on the customer-generator's premises;

17 (D) Can operate in parallel with an electric utility's existing transmission and distribution fa-
18 cilities; and

19 (E) Is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-generator's requirements for elec-
20 tricity.

21 (2) An electric utility that offers residential and commercial electric service:

22 (a) Shall allow net metering facilities to be interconnected using a standard meter that is ca-
23 pable of registering the flow of electricity in two directions.

24 (b) May at its own expense install one or more additional meters to monitor the flow of elec-
25 tricity in each direction.

26 (c) May not charge a customer-generator a fee or charge that would increase the customer-
27 generator's minimum monthly charge to an amount greater than that of other customers in the same
28 rate class as the customer-generator. However, the Public Utility Commission, for a public utility,
29 or the governing body, for a municipal electric utility, electric cooperative or people's utility dis-
30 trict, may authorize an electric utility to assess a greater fee or charge, of any type, if the electric
31 utility's direct costs of interconnection and administration of the net metering outweigh the dis-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 tribution system, environmental and public policy benefits of allocating such costs among the elec-
2 tric utility's entire customer base. The commission may authorize a public utility to assess a greater
3 fee or charge under this paragraph only following notice and opportunity for public comment. The
4 governing body of a municipal electric utility, electric cooperative or people's utility district may
5 assess a greater fee or charge under this paragraph only following notice and opportunity for com-
6 ment from the customers of the utility, cooperative or district.

7 (3)(a) For a customer-generator, an electric utility shall measure the net electricity produced or
8 consumed during the billing period in accordance with normal metering practices.

9 (b) If an electric utility supplies a customer-generator more electricity than the customer-
10 generator feeds back to the electric utility during a billing period, the electric utility shall charge
11 the customer-generator for the net electricity that the electric utility supplied.

12 (c) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection, if a customer-generator feeds back to
13 an electric utility more electricity than the electric utility supplies the customer-generator during
14 a billing period, the electric utility may charge the minimum monthly charge described in subsection
15 (2) of this section but must credit the customer-generator for the excess kilowatt-hours generated
16 during the billing period. An electric utility [*may*] **shall** value the excess kilowatt-hours [*at the*
17 *avoided cost of the utility, as determined by the commission or the appropriate governing body*] **using**
18 **the same rate as the electric utility would use in computing the amount to be charged the**
19 **customer-generator if paragraph (b) of this subsection applied.** [*An electric utility that values the*
20 *excess kilowatt-hours at the avoided cost*] **The electric utility** shall bear the cost of measuring the
21 excess kilowatt-hours, issuing payments and billing for the excess hours. The electric utility also
22 shall bear the cost of providing and installing additional metering to measure the reverse flow of
23 electricity.

24 (d) For the billing cycle ending in March of each year, or on such other date as agreed to by
25 the electric utility and the customer-generator, any remaining unused kilowatt-hour credit accumu-
26 lated during the previous year shall be granted to the electric utility for distribution to customers
27 enrolled in the electric utility's low-income assistance programs, credited to the customer-generator
28 or dedicated for other use as determined by the commission, for a public utility, or the governing
29 body, for a municipal electric utility, electric cooperative or people's utility district, following notice
30 and opportunity for public comment.

31 (4)(a) A net metering facility shall meet all applicable safety and performance standards estab-
32 lished in the state building code. The standards shall be consistent with the applicable standards
33 established by the National Electrical Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
34 and Underwriters Laboratories or other similarly accredited laboratory.

35 (b) Following notice and opportunity for public comment, the commission, for a public utility,
36 or the governing body, for a municipal electric utility, electric cooperative or people's utility dis-
37 trict, may adopt additional control and testing requirements for customer-generators to protect
38 public safety or system reliability.

39 (c) An electric utility may not require a customer-generator whose net metering facility meets
40 the standards in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection to comply with additional safety or per-
41 formance standards, perform or pay for additional tests or purchase additional liability insurance.
42 However, an electric utility shall not be liable directly or indirectly for permitting or continuing to
43 allow an attachment of a net metering facility, or for the acts or omissions of the customer-
44 generator that cause loss or injury, including death, to any third party.

45 (5) Nothing in this section is intended to prevent an electric utility from offering, or a

1 customer-generator from accepting, products or services related to the customer-generator's net
2 metering facility that are different from the net metering services described in this section.

3 (6) The commission, for a public utility, or the governing body, for a municipal electric utility,
4 electric cooperative or people's utility district, may not limit the cumulative generating capacity of
5 solar, wind, fuel cell and microhydroelectric net metering systems to less than one-half of one per-
6 cent of a utility's, cooperative's or district's historic single-hour peak load. After a cumulative limit
7 of one-half of one percent has been reached, the obligation of a public utility, municipal electric
8 utility, electric cooperative or people's utility district to offer net metering to a new customer-
9 generator may be limited by the commission or governing body in order to balance the interests of
10 retail customers. When limiting net metering obligations under this subsection, the commission or
11 the governing body shall consider the environmental and other public policy benefits of net metering
12 systems. The commission may limit net metering obligations under this subsection only following
13 notice and opportunity for public comment. The governing body of a municipal electric utility,
14 electric cooperative or people's utility district may limit net metering obligations under this sub-
15 section only following notice and opportunity for comment from the customers of the utility, coop-
16 erative or district.

17 (7) The commission or the governing body may adopt rules or ordinances to ensure that the
18 obligations and costs associated with net metering apply to all power suppliers within the service
19 territory of a public utility, municipal electric utility, electric cooperative or people's utility district.

20 (8) Notwithstanding subsections (2) to (7) of this section, an electric utility serving fewer than
21 25,000 customers in Oregon that has its headquarters located in another state and offers net me-
22 tering services or a substantial equivalent offset against retail sales in that state shall be deemed
23 to be in compliance with this section if the electric utility offers net metering services to its cus-
24 tomers in Oregon in accordance with tariffs, schedules and other regulations promulgated by the
25 appropriate authority in the state where the electric utility's headquarters are located.

26 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 757.300 by section 1 of this 2005 Act apply to billing**
27 **periods that begin on or after the effective date of this 2005 Act.**

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