

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 626

Introduced by Larson, 40.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee: Natural Resources

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to energy; to adopt the Shared Community Solar

2 Act.

3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Shared
2 Community Solar Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds:

4 (1) It is in the public interest that the state enable the
5 development and deployment of energy generation from shared community
6 solar energy generating systems; and

7 (2) Shared community solar energy generating systems (a) provide
8 residents with increased access to local solar energy while encouraging
9 investment in solar resources, (b) enhance continued diversification of
10 the state's energy resource mix, and (c) provide local distribution
11 utilities and ratepayers with the opportunity to realize the many
12 benefits associated with distributed energy.

13 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Shared Community Solar Act:

14 (1) Customer-generator means an end-use electricity customer that
15 generates electricity on the customer's side of the meter from a
16 qualified facility that:

17 (a) Has contributed to a shared community solar energy generating
18 system; and

19 (b) Participates in a group of customer-generators that owns or
20 operates a shared community solar energy generating system;

21 (2) Program means a shared community solar energy generating system
22 pilot program established pursuant to section 4 of this act;

23 (3) Shared community solar energy generating system means a solar
24 energy generating system that:

25 (a) Is connected to the electric distribution grid serving the
26 state;

27 (b) Is located in the same electric service territory as its
28 customer-generators;

29 (c) Is attached to the electric meter of a customer-generator or is
30 a separate facility with its own electric meter;

31 (d) Credits its generated electricity or the value thereof to the

1 bills of the customer-generators to that system through virtual net
2 energy metering;

3 (e) Has at least two customer-generators;

4 (f) Has a generating capacity that does not exceed XX kilowatts as
5 measured by the alternating current rating of the system's inverter; and

6 (g) May be owned by any person; and

7 (4) Virtual net energy metering means measurement of the difference
8 between the kilowatt-hours or value of electricity that is supplied by a
9 local distribution utility and the kilowatt-hours or value of electricity
10 attributable to a shared community solar energy generating system and fed
11 back to the electric grid.

12 Sec. 4. (1) A local distribution utility shall establish a shared
13 community solar energy generating system pilot program upon receipt of a
14 request by a qualified organization of customer-generators. All rate
15 classes may participate in the program. The program shall provide credits
16 for the electricity produced by the projects described in this section.
17 The credits shall be equal to the customer-generator's portion of the
18 project's production.

19 (2) An organization of customer-generators may request a local
20 distribution utility to establish a shared community solar energy
21 generating system, to adopt regulations to establish a program, and to
22 coordinate the interconnection and commencement of operations of the
23 shared community solar energy generating system.

24 (3) The local distribution utility shall limit the program in a way
25 that allows the local distribution utility to conduct a meaningful study
26 of the program and its results. Such limitations may include, but need
27 not be limited to (a) the appropriate number of shared community solar
28 energy generating systems to be included in the program and (b) the
29 appropriate amount of generating capacity of the shared community solar
30 energy generating systems participating in the program.

31 (4) An organization of customer-generators participating in a

1 program may contract with a third party to finance, build, own, or
2 operate a shared community solar energy generating system.

3 (5) For purposes of the Shared Community Solar Act, a shared
4 community solar energy generating system, including the organization of
5 customer-generators associated with the shared community solar energy
6 generating system, is not a generation or distribution utility.