

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Scott

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Analyst: Bob Eleff

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Overview

Minnesota's renewable energy standard requires that a certain proportion of electricity sold by certain utilities to Minnesota retail customers be generated from renewable resources, including wind, solar, biomass, and small hydropower. For most utilities, the required amount is 12 percent in 2012, 17 percent in 2016, 20 percent in 2020, and 25 percent in 2025. The corresponding figures for Xcel Energy are 18 percent in 2012, 25 percent in 2016, and 30 percent in 2020. Utilities may meet the standard by constructing and owning renewable generating facilities or purchasing power generated by others.

House File 1375 requires utilities subject to the renewable energy standard to submit a report to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the legislature estimating the impact on utility rates of meeting these standards. The first report is to be submitted within 150 days of the effective date of this section; additional reports are to be filed at the same time as a utility's integrated resource plan, every two years.