

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Geothermal energy

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Overview

House File 1079 allows electricity displaced by certain geothermal heating and cooling systems to be counted towards a utility's Renewable Energy Standard, the law that requires a certain proportion of retail electricity sales to be generated from renewable resources. In order to qualify for such treatment, the geothermal system must:

- return groundwater used for heating and cooling to the same aquifer from which it was pumped or transport it to a wastewater treatment plant;
- meet or exceed federal Energy Star standards;
- be manufactured, installed, and operated in accord with government and industry standards;
- not transmit electricity to the grid; and
- receive a certain level of financial assistance from the local utility.