

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill provides factors to be considered by the Public Utilities Commission in approving solar photovoltaic modules for a public utility solar project.

Section

- 1 Public utility solar project.** (a) Defines “project” as a public utility solar project for an investor-owned utility, in partnership with the Minnesota Army National Guard, consisting of arrays of solar photovoltaic modules with a capacity of up to ten megawatts located at a military and civilian training facility in Morrison County. Defines “utility” as the public utility in whose service area a project is located.
- (b) Requires a utility to obtain approval from the Public Utilities Commission (commission) for solar photovoltaic modules to be installed at a project. In consideration of a request, the commission must consider and evaluate:
- (1) local economic benefits;
 - (2) the manufacturer’s and suppliers’ experience and certifications;
 - (3) the projected performance of the solar modules over 30 or more years;
 - (4) the projected durability, safety, and reliability of the solar modules;
 - (5) solar module warranties with specified minimum performance requirements;
 - (6) whether the solar modules comply with the "Made in USA" standard; and
 - (7) a third-party certification supporting the environmental sustainability of the module component sources and manufacturing processes.

Section

2 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$50,000 in fiscal year 2016 to the commission for costs associated with the evaluation required for a project under section 1.