

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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H.F. 2486 amends statutory provisions governing the annual energy-savings goal that municipal utilities and electric cooperative associations are required to meet through energy conservation investments and programs.

That goal is currently set at 1.5 percent of a utility's gross annual retail energy sales, unless it has been modified by the commissioner of commerce upon a utility's request, based on information supplied by the utility. H.F. 2486 removes the commissioner's discretion to make a decision to adjust the energy-savings goal of a municipal utility or cooperative association; the commissioner must approve any such request. The commissioner retains decision-making authority with respect to public utilities, although the goal for those facilities cannot be set below one percent. There is no lower limit set on the goal of a municipal utility or cooperative association.

New language in paragraph (f) of the bill allows municipal utilities and cooperative associations to apply savings resulting from electric utility infrastructure projects – defined as projects that replace or modify electric utility infrastructure or that recover waste heat and convert it to electricity – toward their energy-savings goal.