



2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 245

March 18, 2005 - Introduced by Representatives BIES, AINSWORTH, CULLEN, GUNDERSON, HAHN, F. LASEE, MOLEPSKE, MUSSER, OTT and TOWNSEND, cosponsored by Senators A. LASEE, ERPENBACH, LASSA and OLSEN. Referred to Committee on Rural Affairs and Renewable Energy.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 76.28 (1) (gm) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** utility aid
2 payments based on the megawatt capacity of a wind farm.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, each municipality and county receives a utility aid payment from the state based on the megawatt capacity of each production plant located in the municipality or county, if the production plant began operation after December 31, 2003, the production plant has a megawatt capacity of at least one megawatt, and the production plant is used by a light, heat, or power company; a qualified wholesale electric company, a wholesale merchant plant, an electric cooperative, or a municipal electric company. Generally, utility aid payments are funded by the collection of license fees imposed on companies that produce light, heat, or power.

For utility aid payment and license fee purposes, a qualified wholesale electric company includes a wholesale merchant plant that has a total power production capacity of at least 50 megawatts. Under this bill, for utility aid payment and license fee purposes, a qualified wholesale electric company also includes a wholesale merchant plant that is a wind farm located in more than one municipality or county, if the wind farm has a cumulative power production capacity of at least 25 megawatts.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

