



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2009 Senate Bill 273

Senate Amendment 1

Memo published: April 19, 2010

Contact: David L. Lovell, Senior Analyst (266-1537)

Under the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in *current law*, providers of electric power must ensure that specified percentages of the electricity they sell in a year is derived from renewable resources. An electric provider may create credits if it sells more qualifying electricity in a year than required. Credits can be banked for later use in complying with the RPS requirements or sold in an interstate credit trading market.

2009 Senate Bill 273 creates a new type of credit, based on the use of certain non-electric forms of energy by an electric provider or its customers or members, provided that the energy use displaces the use of electricity derived from conventional resources. The forms of energy from which such credits may be created are the following:

- Solar energy, including solar water heating and direct solar applications such as solar light pipe technology.
- Geothermal energy.
- Biomass and biogas.

Current law defines “renewable resource” (the basis of an electric provider’s compliance with its RPS requirements) as electricity derived from any of the following:

- A fuel cell.
- Tidal or wave action.
- Solar thermal electric or photovoltaic energy.

- Wind power.
- Geothermal technology.
- Biomass.

Senate Amendment 1 adds to that list electricity derived from the following:

- Synthetic gas created by the plasma gasification of waste.
- Fuel produced by the pyrolysis of organic or waste material.
- Densified fuel pellets made from certain wastes and having certain properties.

Legislative History

On May 15, 2010, the Senate adopted Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 273 on a vote of Ayes, 26; and Noes, 7, and passed Senate Bill 273, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 25; and Noes, 8.

DLL:jal