



2011 SENATE BILL 81

April 28, 2011 – Introduced by Senators LASEE, GALLOWAY, LEIBHAM, HOPPER, WIRCH, HANSEN, HOLPERIN and LASSA, cosponsored by Representatives KLENKE, WEININGER, JACQUE, HONADEL, ZIEGELBAUER, NYGREN, TAUCHEN, PETERSEN, A. OTT, BIES, MEYER, PETROWSKI, VAN ROY, LEMAHIEU, TIFFANY, STEINEKE, SPANBAUER and BALLWEG. Referred to Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Operations.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 196.378 (1) (h) 1m. and 196.378 (2) (b) 1m.; and **to create**
2 196.378 (1) (dm), 196.378 (1) (m) and 196.378 (2) (b) 1o. of the statutes; **relating**
3 **to:** eligibility of hydroelectric resources under the renewable portfolio
4 standard.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, an electric utility or retail electric cooperative (electric provider) is subject to certain requirements for ensuring that, in a given year, a specified percentage of the electricity that the electric provider sells to retail customers or members is derived from renewable resources. These requirements are commonly collectively referred to as the renewable portfolio standard (RPS). “Renewable resource” is defined to include certain resources, including a resource deriving electricity from hydroelectric power that has a capacity of less than 60 megawatts. An electric provider may count toward compliance with the RPS electricity purchased by the electric provider that is generated from such a hydroelectric resource. Subject to certain requirements, an electric provider can also count electricity generated from such a hydroelectric resource that the electric provider owns or operates.

Effective December 31, 2015, this bill allows, under certain circumstances, an electric provider to count toward compliance with the RPS electricity derived by a hydroelectric facility with a capacity of 60 megawatts or more, which the bill defines as a “large hydroelectric facility.” The bill allows an electric provider to count electricity derived from a large hydroelectric facility only if the facility was initially

SENATE BILL 81

placed in service on or after December 31, 2010. In addition, for a large hydroelectric facility located in Manitoba, Canada, the electricity may be counted toward compliance only if the following are satisfied: 1) the Province of Manitoba informs the Public Service Commission in writing that final licenses have replaced interim licenses for two specified hydroelectric projects located in the province; and 2) those final licenses are in effect under Canadian law. The bill does not change the requirements under current law relating to electricity derived from a hydroelectric facility with a capacity of less than 60 megawatts, except that the bill defines such a facility as a “small hydroelectric facility.”

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 196.378 (1) (dm) of the statutes is created to read:

2 196.378 (1) (dm) “Large hydroelectric facility” means an electric generating
3 facility with a capacity of 60 megawatts or more that derives electricity from
4 hydroelectric power.

5 **SECTION 2.** 196.378 (1) (h) 1m. of the statutes is amended to read:

6 196.378 (1) (h) 1m. A resource with a capacity of less than 60 megawatts that
7 derives electricity from hydroelectric power.

8 **SECTION 3.** 196.378 (1) (m) of the statutes is created to read:

9 196.378 (1) (m) “Small hydroelectric facility” means an electric generating
10 facility with a capacity of less than 60 megawatts that derives electricity from
11 hydroelectric power.

12 **SECTION 4.** 196.378 (2) (b) 1m. of the statutes is amended to read:

13 196.378 (2) (b) 1m. The amount of electricity derived from small hydroelectric
14 ~~renewable resources~~ facilities that an electric provider may count toward satisfying
15 the requirements of par. (a) 2. shall be all electricity provided by hydroelectric power
16 such facilities that the electric provider purchased in the reporting year plus all of
17 the following:

