

HB 66 provisions and rationale

- A Net Metering customer may have a renewable energy system size to up to 25kW, but individual utilities may allow systems with a higher kilowatt rating. *Testimony from utilities is that the cost of systems under 25kW and complexity of the interconnection of these systems is much less than larger systems, making it a good break-point.*
- Net Metering participation can reach up to 1% of retail system peak demand before a utility disallows new participants. However, a utility may voluntarily adopt a higher percentage. *A 1% threshold will allow for the growth of renewable generation along the Railbelt, while simultaneously addressing concerns of small utilities that a large renewable producer would come in and negatively impact the grid with excessive power.*
- A utility may limit Net Metering installations due to special circumstances related to engineering constraints on the portions of the distribution system affected by the proposed installation. *This also addresses concerns raised by small utilities.*
- If a customer generates more electricity than they consume, they receive a kilowatt hour credit. Credits roll over from month to month for up to one year. At the end of a year any excess credits are donated to the utility customer base. *Donation of excess credits allows the utility consumer base to directly benefit from net metering customer and eliminates the potential for paperwork from small potentially taxable transactions.*
- Customers of a small utility may vote to exempt the utility from the provisions of the bill.
- A default uniform statewide utility interconnection standard is established. *Interconnection standards should be adopted simultaneous with net metering rule. Standardization of clear interconnect standards is an important component of Net Metering.*
- HB 66 prohibits additional fees for Net Metering. *The financial benefits of Net Metering can easily be outweighed by fees and charges, decreasing a customer's ability to amortize the cost of renewable generation equipment.*
- Nothing in HB 66 prohibits a utility from concurrently offering a SNAP program that a customer/generator can choose instead of or in combination with Net Metering. *SNAP is not Net Metering and it would not be precluded under HB 66. If a utility chooses to adopt Sustainable Natural Alternative Program (as offered in Alaska by GVEA and HEA) it is free to offer this in addition to Net Metering.*
- Nothing in HB 66 prohibits a utility and a customer from negotiating an individual power purchase agreement for excess customer generation. *This allows existing and future large scale renewable generation projects to go forward under separate individual agreements with the utility.*