

April 5, 2001

S 971. NET METERING/UTILITIES. REQUIRING NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES SELLING ELECTRIC POWER TO OFFER NET METERING TO CUSTOMERS HAVING THEIR OWN ON-SITE, SMALL-SCALE, RENEWABLE-FUELED ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES. Adds new Art. 17 ("Net Metering") to GS Ch. 62. Requires electric utilities (public utilities, municipally-owned utilities, and electric cooperatives) to provide net metering to customers of the utility who are also generators. Net metering means measuring the difference between the electricity supplied by the utility and the electricity generated by the customer-generator that is fed back to the utility, and then billing only for the difference. Applies only where the customer-generator uses solar, wind, biomass, biogas, or hydroelectric energy to generate electricity, and only where customer-generator has generating capacity below 10 kilowatts for residential customers and 100 kilowatts for commercial generators. Specifies options that the utility may exercise for measuring the in-flow and out-flow of electricity to and from the customer-generator. Provides that the requirement to provide net metering does not apply to new customer-generators when the combined total peak generation capacity of all customer-generators reaches 1% of the aggregate customer peak demand in the service territory. If the electricity supplied by the utility exceeds the electricity generated by the customer-generator, then the utility may bill the customer-generator for the difference. If the electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds the amount supplied by the utility, then the customer-generator gets a credit against the next month; if at the end of the year a balance still exists in the customer-generator's favor, then the credit is to be granted to the utility for distribution to customers enrolled in the utility's low-income assistance programs, without compensation to the customer-generator. Sets limits on utility's ability to require of customer-generators additional tests, standards, or insurance. Sets procedures for applying for net metering and time frames for utility responses. Effective July 1, 2001.

Intro. by Kinnaird.

Ref. to Commerce	GS 62
------------------	-------