
SENATE BILL 5118

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Palumbo, Rolfes, Carlyle, Mullet, and Frockt

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1 AN ACT Relating to the right to consume self-generated
2 electricity; and amending RCW 80.60.040.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 80.60.040 and 2006 c 201 s 4 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A net metering system used by a customer-generator shall
7 include, at the customer-generator's own expense, all equipment
8 necessary to meet applicable safety, power quality, and
9 interconnection requirements established by the national electrical
10 code, national electrical safety code, the institute of electrical
11 and electronics engineers, and underwriters laboratories.

12 (2) The commission, in the case of an electrical company, or the
13 appropriate governing body, in the case of other electric utilities,
14 after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment, may adopt by
15 regulation additional safety, power quality, and interconnection
16 requirements for customer-generators, including limitations on the
17 number of customer generators and total capacity of net metering
18 systems that may be interconnected to any distribution feeder line,
19 circuit, or network that the commission or governing body determines
20 are necessary to protect public safety and system reliability.

1 (3) An electric utility may not require a customer-generator
2 whose net metering system meets the standards in subsections (1) and
3 (2) of this section to comply with additional safety or performance
4 standards, perform or pay for additional tests, or purchase
5 additional liability insurance. However, an electric utility shall
6 not be liable directly or indirectly for permitting or continuing to
7 allow an attachment of a net metering system, or for the acts or
8 omissions of the customer-generator that cause loss or injury,
9 including death, to any third party.

10 (4) An electric utility may not establish compensation
11 arrangements or interconnection requirements, other than those
12 permitted in this chapter, for a customer-generator that would have
13 the effect of limiting the ability of a customer-generator to
14 generate or store electricity for consumption on its premises.

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