

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Galizio, Gilliam, Holvey, Thatcher, Witt, Read
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Barbara Allen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Amends permit process for air contamination sources to include certain small scale renewable energy projects that provide a net air quality benefit if the project provides reductions in each air contaminant in certain areas as defined by Environmental Quality Commission (EQC). Provides a streamlined approach to meet offset requirement for small scale renewable energy projects by eliminating requirement for air quality modeling and allowing offset areas from any location with nonattainment or maintenance areas.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Department of Environmental Quality reviews complex air quality models to show topography of area surrounding production site
- Amending current law to change reporting of air quality

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: Major new and modified emission sources are required to take steps to avoid harming air quality, particularly in areas that are violating federal air quality standards (known as nonattainment areas) and areas that formerly violated federal standards (known as maintenance areas). These sources are required to install stringent pollution control equipment to minimize emissions and offset their increased emissions by reducing emissions from other sources in the area. The “offset” is required to provide a “net air quality benefit,” which means that it results in a net reduction of air pollution in all areas impacted by the new source’s emissions. While this requirement is critical for improving air quality, it can be a very difficult test to meet. Not only do the owners of the new source need to fund reductions at an existing source, they must also demonstrate through air quality modeling that the reduction provides a net air quality benefit in all locations. HB 2952A would make it easier for a small scale energy project to be permitted without significant risk to air quality.