

SB 979 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the ability of retail electricity consumer to purchase electricity generated by eligible renewable energy resources and certain ancillary services directly from an entity that is not a distribution utility, provided that the entity meets specified conditions. Changes requirements for entity that is not a distribution utility from which a retail electricity consumer directly may purchase electricity. Becomes operative January 1, 2018. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Eliminates requirement that Public Utility Commission consider benefits related to reduction of emissions and other environmental benefits under direct access programs. Requires retirement of renewable energy certificates transferred or sold to consumer through direct access program.

FISCAL:

REVENUE:

BACKGROUND:

Current law does not provide for nonresidential consumers of investor-owned utilities to purchase electricity generated from renewable energy sources directly; instead, commercial and industrial customers must rely on the utility to access renewable power.