

SB 979 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 4/3, 4/17

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:

- Many companies seeking to go to 100 percent renewable power
- Increasing amount of renewable power available
- Different methods for providing direct access to renewable power
- Method for access to renewable power prior to Senate Bill 1149 (2001)
- Balancing needs of small and large customers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-2 amendment] Replaces the original measure.

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.