Second Regular Session Sixty-seventh General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

REREVISED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted in the Second House

LLS NO. 10-0746.01 Duane Gall

HOUSE BILL 10-1342

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101	CONCERNING MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN
102	SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES, AND, IN CONNECTION
103	THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF COMMUNITY
104	SOLAR GARDENS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries.)

Existing law directs the Colorado public utilities commission (PUC) to adopt rules implementing the renewable energy portfolio

SENATE 3rd Reading Unam ended

SENATE Am ended 2nd Reading April26,2010

HOUSE

3rd Reading Unam ended
Marrh 25, 2010

nouse ended 2nd Reading March 23, 2010 standards (RPS) for electric utilities, under which increasing amounts of electricity must be generated from renewable sources. The current rules provide for standard rebates for the cost of installation and renewable energy credits (RECs) to promote customer-sited solar generation facilities.

The bill directs the PUC to adopt new rules under which standard offers can apply to solar generation facilities that are beneficially owned by 10 or more customers at a shared location, called a "community solar garden". This will help customers participate in solar generation even though solar facilities on their own properties may not be feasible due to cost, the physical characteristics of their sites, their status as renters, or other factors.

Section 1 of the bill amends an existing legislative declaration to state that it is in the public interest to allow renters and low-income utility customers to own interests in solar generation facilities, to make interests in solar generation facilities portable and transferable, and to leverage Colorado's solar generating capacity through economies of scale. Section 1 also:

- ! Defines a solar community garden as an on-site eligible solar electric generation facility with a nameplate rating of 2 megawatts or less and in which subscriptions are owned by 10 or more customers of a qualifying retail utility;
- ! Limits the size of a subscription to 120% of the average annual electric consumption of each subscriber at the premises to which the subscription is attributed;
- ! Allows the creation of a community solar garden owned by a subscriber organization, subject to rules adopted by the PUC by October 1, 2010;
- ! Specifies that, in their first 2 compliance plan years after the effective date of the bill, qualifying retail utilities must purchase the greater of 3 megawatts, or half their total purchases of electricity from community solar gardens, from gardens that are sized at 500 kilowatts or smaller;
- ! Exempts community solar gardens from the definition of a utility; and
- ! Specifies that section 1 does not apply to cooperative electric associations or municipally owned utilities.

Section 2 makes conforming amendments to the existing RPS statute (a/k/a "Amendment 37").

- 1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** 40-2-127, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended

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1	to read:
2	40-2-127. Community energy funds - community solar
3	gardens - definitions - rules - legislative declaration - repeal.
4	(1) Legislative declaration. The general assembly hereby finds and
5	declares that:
6	(a) Local communities can benefit from the further development
7	of renewable energy, energy efficiency, conservation, and environmental
8	improvement projects, and the general assembly hereby encourages
9	electric utilities to establish community energy funds for the development
10	of such projects;
11	(b) It is in the public interest that broader participation
12	IN SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATION BY COLORADO RESIDENTS AND
13	COMMERCIAL ENTITIES BE ENCOURAGED BY THE DEVELOPMENT AND
14	DEPLOYMENT OF DISTRIBUTED SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES
15	KNOWN AS COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS, IN ORDER TO:
16	(I) PROVIDE COLORADO RESIDENTS AND COMMERCIAL ENTITIES
17	WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SOLAR GENERATION IN
18	ADDITION TO THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR
19	GENERATION ON HOMES AND BUSINESSES;
20	(II) Allow renters, low-income utility customers, and
21	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS TO OWN INTERESTS IN SOLAR GENERATION
22	FACILITIES;
23	(III) ALLOW INTERESTS IN SOLAR GENERATION FACILITIES TO BE
24	PORTABLE AND TRANSFERRABLE; AND
25	(IV) LEVERAGE COLORADO'S SOLAR GENERATING CAPACITY
26	THROUGH ECONOMIES OF SCALE.
27	(2) Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context

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1	OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
2	(a) The definitions in section 40-2-124 apply; and
3	(b) IN ADDITION:
4	(I) (A) "COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN" MEANS A SOLAR ELECTRIC
5	GENERATION FACILITY WITH A NAMEPLATE RATING OF TWO MEGAWATTS
6	OR LESS THAT IS LOCATED IN OR NEAR A COMMUNITY SERVED BY A
7	QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY WHERE THE BENEFICIAL USE OF THE
8	ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY THE FACILITY BELONGS TO THE SUBSCRIBERS
9	TO THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN. THERE SHALL BE AT LEAST TEN
10	SUBSCRIBERS. THE OWNER OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN MAY BE
11	THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY OR ANY OTHER FOR-PROFIT OR
12	NONPROFIT ENTITY OR ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING A SUBSCRIBER
13	ORGANIZATION ORGANIZED UNDER THIS SECTION, THAT CONTRACTS TO
14	SELL THE OUTPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN TO THE
15	QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY. A COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN SHALL BE
16	DEEMED TO BE "LOCATED ON THE SITE OF CUSTOMER FACILITIES".
17	(B) A COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN SHALL CONSTITUTE "RETAIL
18	DISTRIBUTED GENERATION" WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 40-2-124,
19	AS AMENDED BY HOUSE BILL 10-1001, ENACTED IN 2010.
20	(II) "SUBSCRIBER" MEANS A RETAIL CUSTOMER OF A QUALIFYING
21	RETAIL UTILITY WHO OWNS A SUBSCRIPTION AND WHO HAS IDENTIFIED ONE
22	OR MORE PHYSICAL LOCATIONS TO WHICH THE SUBSCRIPTION SHALL BE
23	ATTRIBUTED. SUCH PHYSICAL LOCATIONS SHALL BE WITHIN EITHER THE
24	SAME MUNICIPALITY OR THE SAME COUNTY AS THE COMMUNITY SOLAR
25	GARDEN; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE SUBSCRIBER LIVES IN A COUNTY WITH A
26	POPULATION OF LESS THAN TWENTY THOUSAND, ACCORDING TO THE MOST
27	RECENT AVAILABLE CENSUS FIGURES, SUCH PHYSICAL LOCATIONS MAY BE

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2	THOUSAND, WITHIN THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF THE SAME QUALIFYING
3	RETAIL UTILITY AND ALSO ADJACENT TO THAT OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR
4	GARDEN. THE SUBSCRIBER MAY CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME THE
5	PREMISES TO WHICH THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN ELECTRICITY
6	GENERATION SHALL BE ATTRIBUTED, SO LONG AS THE PREMISES ARE
7	WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS ALLOWED FOR A SUBSCRIBER.
8	$(III) \ "SUBSCRIPTION" \\ MEANS \\ A PROPORTIONAL \\ INTEREST \\ IN SOLAR$
9	ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES INSTALLED AT A COMMUNITY SOLAR
10	GARDEN, TOGETHER WITH THE RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS ASSOCIATED
11	WITH OR ATTRIBUTABLE TO SUCH FACILITIES UNDER SECTION 40-2-124.
12	EACH SUBSCRIPTION SHALL BE SIZED TO REPRESENT AT LEAST ONE
13	KILOWATT OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN'S GENERATING CAPACITY
14	AND TO SUPPLY NO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY PERCENT OF THE
15	AVERAGE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY BY EACH SUBSCRIBER
16	AT THE PREMISES TO WHICH THE SUBSCRIPTION IS ATTRIBUTED, WITH A
17	DEDUCTION FOR THE AMOUNT OF ANY EXISTING SOLAR FACILITIES AT SUCH
18	PREMISES. SUBSCRIPTIONS IN A COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN MAY BE
19	TRANSFERRED OR ASSIGNED TO A SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATION OR TO ANY
20	PERSON OR ENTITY WHO QUALIFIES TO BE A SUBSCRIBER UNDER THIS
21	SECTION.
22	(3) Subscriber organization - subscriber qualifications -
23	transferability of subscriptions. (a) THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN
24	MAY BE OWNED BY A SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATION, WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE
25	SHALL BE BENEFICIALLY OWNING AND OPERATING A COMMUNITY SOLAR
26	GARDEN. THE SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATION MAY BE ANY FOR-PROFIT OR
27	NONPROFIT ENTITY PERMITTED BY COLORADO LAW. THE COMMUNITY

IN ANOTHER COUNTY, ALSO WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN TWENTY

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1	SOLAR GARDEN MAY ALSO BE BUILT, OWNED, AND OPERATED BY A THIRD
2	PARTY UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATION.
3	(b) On or before October 1, 2010, the commission shall
4	COMMENCE A RULE-MAKING PROCEEDING TO ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY
5	TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RULES TO
6	FACILITATE THE FINANCING OF SUBSCRIBER-OWNED COMMUNITY SOLAR
7	GARDENS. SUCH RULES SHALL INCLUDE:
8	(I) MINIMUM CAPITALIZATION;
9	(II) THE SHARE OF A COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN'S ELIGIBLE
10	SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES THAT A SUBSCRIBER
11	ORGANIZATION MAY AT ANY TIME OWN IN ITS OWN NAME; AND
12	(III) AUTHORIZING SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATIONS TO ENTER INTO
13	LEASES, SALE-AND-LEASEBACK TRANSACTIONS, OPERATING AGREEMENTS,
14	AND OTHER OWNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS WITH THIRD PARTIES.
15	(c) IF A SUBSCRIBER CEASES TO BE A CUSTOMER AT THE PREMISES
16	ON WHICH THE SUBSCRIPTION IS BASED BUT, WITHIN A REASONABLE
17	PERIOD AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, BECOMES A CUSTOMER AT
18	ANOTHER PREMISES IN THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF THE QUALIFYING
19	RETAIL UTILITY AND WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED BY THE
20	COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN, THE SUBSCRIPTION SHALL CONTINUE IN
21	EFFECT BUT THE BILL CREDIT AND OTHER FEATURES OF THE SUBSCRIPTION
22	SHALL BE ADJUSTED AS NECESSARY TO REFLECT ANY DIFFERENCES
23	BETWEEN THE NEW AND PREVIOUS PREMISES' CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATION
24	AND AVERAGE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY.
25	(4) Community solar gardens not subject to regulation.
26	NEITHER THE OWNERS OF NOR THE SUBSCRIBERS TO A COMMUNITY SOLAR
27	GARDEN SHALL BE CONSIDERED PUBLIC UTILITIES SUBJECT TO REGULATION

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1	BY THE COMMISSION SOLELY AS A RESULT OF THEIR INTEREST IN THE
2	COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN. PRICES PAID FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS IN
3	COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY
4	THE COMMISSION.
5	(5) Purchases of the output from community solar gardens.
6	(a) (I) EACH QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL SET FORTH IN ITS
7	PLAN FOR ACQUISITION OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES A PLAN TO
8	PURCHASE THE ELECTRICITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS
9	GENERATED FROM ONE OR MORE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS OVER THE
10	PERIOD COVERED BY THE PLAN.
11	(II) FOR THE FIRST <u>THREE</u> COMPLIANCE YEARS COMMENCING
12	WITH THE 2011 COMPLIANCE YEAR, EACH QUALIFYING RETAIL
13	UTILITY SHALL ISSUE ONE OR MORE STANDARD OFFERS TO PURCHASE THE
14	OUTPUT FROM COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS OF FIVE HUNDRED KILOWATTS
15	OR LESS AT PRICES THAT ARE COMPARABLE TO THE PRICES OFFERED
16	BY THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY UNDER STANDARD OFFERS ISSUED FOR
17	ON-SITE SOLAR GENERATION. DURING THESE THREE COMPLIANCE YEARS,
18	THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL ACQUIRE, THROUGH THESE
19	STANDARD OFFERS, ONE-HALF OF THE SOLAR GARDEN GENERATION IT
20	PLANS TO ACQUIRE, TO THE EXTENT THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY
21	RECEIVES RESPONSES TO ITS STANDARD OFFERS. NOTWITHSTANDING
22	ANY PROVISION OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II) TO THE CONTRARY,
23	<u>RENEWABLE</u> ENERGY CREDITS GENERATED FROM SOLAR GARDENS SHALL
24	NOT BE USED TO ACHIEVE MORE THAN TWENTY PERCENT OF THE RETAIL
25	DISTRIBUTED GENERATION STANDARD IN YEARS 2011 THROUGH 2013 .
26	(III) FOR THE FIRST THREE COMPLIANCE YEARS COMMENCING WITH
27	THE 2011 COMPLIANCE YEAR, A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL NOT

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1	BE OBLIGATED TO PURCHASE THE OUTPUT FROM MORE THAN SIX
2	MEGAWATTS OF NEWLY INSTALLED COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN
3	GENERATION.
4	(IV) FOR EACH QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S COMPLIANCE
5	YEARS COMMENCING IN 2014 AND THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL
6	DETERMINE THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PURCHASES OF
7	ELECTRICAL OUTPUT FROM NEWLY INSTALLED COMMUNITY SOLAR
8	GARDENS OF DIFFERENT OUTPUT CAPACITY THAT THE QUALIFYING RETAIL
9	UTILITY SHALL PLAN TO ACQUIRE, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE
10	SIX-MEGAWATT CEILING OF THE FIRST $\underline{\text{THREE}}$ COMPLIANCE YEARS. IN
11	ADDITION, AS NECESSARY, THE COMMISSION SHALL FORMULATE AND
12	IMPLEMENT POLICIES CONSISTENT WITH THIS SECTION THAT
13	SIMULTANEOUSLY ENCOURAGE:
14	(A) THE OWNERSHIP BY CUSTOMERS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS IN
15	COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS AND OF OTHER FORMS OF DISTRIBUTED
16	GENERATION, TO THE EXTENT THE COMMISSION FINDS THERE TO BE
17	CUSTOMER DEMAND FOR SUCH OWNERSHIP;
18	(B) OWNERSHIP IN COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS BY RESIDENTIAL
19	RETAIL CUSTOMERS, <u>AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS</u> , INCLUDING
20	LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS, TO THE EXTENT THE COMMISSION FINDS THERE
21	TO BE DEMAND FOR SUCH OWNERSHIP;
22	(C) THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS WITH
23	ATTRIBUTES THAT THE COMMISSION FINDS RESULT IN LOWER OVERALL
24	TOTAL COSTS FOR THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S CUSTOMERS;
25	(D) SUCCESSFUL FINANCING AND OPERATION OF COMMUNITY
26	SOLAR GARDENS OWNED BY SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATIONS; AND
2.7	(E) THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF SECTION

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1 40-2-124.

(b) (I) THE OUTPUT FROM A COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN SHALL BE SOLD ONLY TO THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SERVING THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN IS LOCATED. ONCE A COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN IS PART OF A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S PLAN FOR ACQUISITION OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES, AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION. THE OUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL PURCHASE ALL OF THE ELECTRICITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS GENERATED BY THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN. THE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS GENERATED BY EACH COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN SHALL BE DETERMINED BY A PRODUCTION METER INSTALLED BY THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY OR THIRD-PARTY SYSTEM OWNER AND PAID FOR BY THE OWNER OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN.

(II) THE PURCHASE OF THE OUTPUT OF A COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN BY A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL TAKE THE FORM OF A NET METERING CREDIT AGAINST THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S ELECTRIC BILL TO EACH COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN SUBSCRIBER AT THE PREMISES SET FORTH IN THE SUBSCRIBER'S SUBSCRIPTION. THE NET METERING CREDIT SHALL BE CALCULATED BY MULTIPLYING THE SUBSCRIBER'S SHARE OF THE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION FROM THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN BY THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S TOTAL AGGREGATE RETAIL RATE AS CHARGED TO THE SUBSCRIBER, MINUS A REASONABLE CHARGE AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN, INTEGRATING THE SOLAR GENERATION WITH THE UTILITY'S SYSTEM, AND ADMINISTERING THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN'S CONTRACTS AND NET

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METERING CREDITS. THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE THAT THIS CHARGE DOES NOT REFLECT COSTS THAT ARE ALREADY RECOVERED BY THE UTILITY FROM THE SUBSCRIBER THROUGH OTHER CHARGES. IF, AND TO THE EXTENT THAT, A SUBSCRIBER'S NET METERING CREDIT EXCEEDS THE SUBSCRIBER'S ELECTRIC BILL IN ANY BILLING PERIOD, THE NET METERING CREDIT SHALL BE CARRIED FORWARD AND APPLIED AGAINST FUTURE BILLS. THE OUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY AND THE OWNER OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN SHALL AGREE ON WHETHER THE PURCHASE OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FROM SUBSCRIBERS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH A CREDIT ON EACH SUBSCRIBER'S ELECTRICITY BILL OR BY A PAYMENT TO THE OWNER OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN.

(c) THE OWNER OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN SHALL PROVIDE REAL-TIME PRODUCTION DATA TO THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY TO FACILITATE INCORPORATION OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN INTO THE UTILITY'S OPERATION OF ITS ELECTRIC SYSTEM AND TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF NET METERING CREDITS.

(d) The owner of the community solar garden shall be responsible for providing to the qualifying retail utility, on a monthly basis and within reasonable periods set by the qualifying retail utility, the percentage shares that should be used to determine the net metering credit to each subscriber. If the electricity output of the community solar garden is not fully subscribed, the qualifying retail utility shall purchase the unsubscribed renewable energy and the renewable energy credits at a rate equal to the qualifying retail utility's average hourly incremental cost of electricity supply over the

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1	IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR.
2	(e) EACH QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL SET FORTH IN ITS
3	PLAN FOR ACQUISITION OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES A PROPOSAL FOR
4	INCLUDING LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS AS SUBSCRIBERS TO A COMMUNITY
5	SOLAR GARDEN. THE UTILITY MAY GIVE PREFERENCE TO COMMUNITY
6	SOLAR GARDENS THAT HAVE LOW-INCOME SUBSCRIBERS.
7	(f) QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITIES SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE
8	INCENTIVES AND SUBJECT TO THE OWNERSHIP LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN
9	SECTION 40-2-124 (1) (f) FOR UTILITY INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY
10	SOLAR GARDENS AND MAY RECOVER THROUGH RATES A MARGIN, IN AN
11	AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, ON ALL ENERGY AND
12	RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS PURCHASED FROM COMMUNITY SOLAR
13	GARDENS. SUCH INCENTIVE PAYMENTS SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE
14	COST ANALYSIS REQUIRED BY SECTION 40-2-124 (1) (g).
15	(6) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO WAIVE OR
16	SUPERSEDE THE RETAIL RATE IMPACT LIMITATIONS IN SECTION 40-2-124
17	(1) (g). Utility expenditures for unsubscribed energy and
18	RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS GENERATED BY COMMUNITY SOLAR
19	GARDENS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATIONS OF RETAIL RATE
20	IMPACT REQUIRED BY THAT SECTION.
21	(7) Applicability to cooperative electric associations and
22	municipally owned utilities. This section shall not apply to
23	COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS OR TO MUNICIPALLY OWNED
24	UTILITIES.
25	SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
26	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
27	preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

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