

2153

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 14, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to electric service for farmers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds and declares that  
2     the installation of on-site electric generation systems would address  
3     the high energy costs of farmers and would result in the creation and  
4     retention of jobs in New York state. Barriers to such installation  
5     should be removed to encourage private investment in these technologies  
6     and to stimulate economic growth.  
7     S 2. Section 65 of the public service law is amended by adding a new  
8     subdivision 6-a to read as follows:  
9     6-A. CERTAIN CHARGES PROHIBITED. (A) NO ELECTRIC CORPORATION OR MUNI-  
10    CIPALITY OWNING ELECTRIC PLANT USEFUL FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC-  
11    ITY SHALL IMPOSE ON ANY CUSTOMER THAT IS A QUALIFYING FARMER ANY FEE,  
12    PENALTY OR CHARGE OF ANY KIND OTHER THAN ITS CHARGES BASED UPON THE COST  
13    OF SERVICES ACTUALLY PROVIDED TO SUCH CUSTOMER, FOR ELECTRICITY, TRANS-  
14    MISSION, DISTRIBUTION, METERING, BILLING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES. NO ELEC-  
15    TRIC CORPORATION OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL IMPLEMENT POLICIES OR PROCEDURES  
16    THAT WOULD PREVENT QUALIFYING FARMERS FROM INSTALLING AND OPERATING  
17    ON-SITE GENERATION EQUIPMENT AND RELATED TECHNOLOGY.  
18    (B) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBDIVISION:  
19    (I) "FARMER" MEANS A PERSON WHOSE FEDERAL GROSS INCOME FROM FARM  
20    PRODUCTION FOR THE PREVIOUS TAXABLE YEAR WAS AT LEAST TEN THOUSAND  
21    DOLLARS.  
22    (II) "QUALIFYING FARMER" MEANS A FARMER THAT INSTALLS AN ON-SITE ELEC-  
23    TRIC GENERATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO A FARM (WHETHER

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 THE FARMER CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN ACCESS TO TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION  
2 SERVICES OR VOLUNTARILY DISCONNECTS ACCESS TO TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIB-  
3 UTION SERVICES) AND FILES A NOTIFICATION THEREOF WITH THE ELECTRIC  
4 CORPORATION OR MUNICIPALITY, WITH A COPY TO THE DEPARTMENT, PRIOR TO THE  
5 CUT-OFF DATE.

6 (III) "CUT-OFF DATE" FOR EACH SERVICE TERRITORY MEANS THE DATE WHEN  
7 THE ELECTRIC CORPORATION OR MUNICIPALITY SERVING SUCH SERVICE TERRITORY  
8 SHALL HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATIONS FROM QUALIFYING FARMERS SUCH THAT THE  
9 SUM OF THE RATED GENERATING CAPACITY SHOWN ON SUCH NOTIFICATIONS SHALL  
10 EQUAL OR EXCEED ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL ELECTRIC DEMAND  
11 FOR THE YEAR NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPART-  
12 MENT, OR SEPTEMBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST.

13 S 3. Subdivision 28 of section 66 of the public service law, as added  
14 by chapter 82 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

15 28. No revenues foregone by an electric corporation, as a result of  
16 subjecting certain veterans' organizations [with] TO rates or charges  
17 applicable to domestic consumers pursuant to section seventy-six of this  
18 article OR AS A RESULT OF PROHIBITING CERTAIN CHARGES RELATED TO ELEC-  
19 TRIC SERVICE PROVIDED TO FARMERS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION SIX-A OF  
20 SECTION SIXTY-FIVE OF THIS ARTICLE, shall be recovered from the custom-  
21 ers of such corporation.

22 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be deemed to be  
23 repealed September 1, 2018, except that the provisions of this act shall  
24 continue to apply to a customer who is a qualifying farmer as long as  
25 such on-site electric generation system remains in use.