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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stefanics ORIGINAL DATE 2/13/17
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Utility Acceptance Of Gov't Renewable Energy SB 248
ANALYST Martinez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Regulation Commission (PRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis

This bill requires the Public Regulation Commission to expand the scope of its existing rule regarding the renewable portfolio standard (Rule 17.9.572 NMAC) to include a requirement that utilities and electric cooperatives participate in solar projects planned by local governments, political subdivisions or state post-secondary educational institutions and accept the energy generated by these solar projects.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB 248 carries no appropriations and will not have a fiscal impact on the Public Regulation Commission.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Local governments, political subdivisions or state post-secondary educational institutions currently have the ability to independently develop renewable energy generation projects including solar projects. There are existing Commission rules that provide a framework for such development and for the obligation of public utilities to interconnect (Rules 17.9.568, 17.9.569 and 17.9.570 NMAC). This bill appears to require that utilities and electric cooperatives participate in such solar projects but the nature of this participation is undefined and it is unclear

whether such participation extends beyond the current obligation of utilities and electric cooperatives to interconnect with these solar projects.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

In the event this bill is not enacted, existing statutes and rules will continue to apply. Local governments, political subdivisions or state post-secondary educational institutions will continue to have the ability to develop renewable energy generation facilities and public utilities will continue to be required to interconnect with these facilities.

JM/al