

~~(3) lower the cost to consumers of electricity produced from these resources;~~

~~(b) The General Assembly finds that:~~

~~(1) the benefits of electricity from renewable energy resources, including long term decreased emissions, a healthier environment, increased energy security, and decreased reliance on and vulnerability from imported energy sources, accrue to the public at large; and~~

~~(2) electricity suppliers and consumers share an obligation to develop a minimum level of these resources in the electricity supply portfolio of the State.~~

7-703.

~~(a) (1) (i) The Commission shall implement a renewable energy portfolio standard:~~

~~A. FROM TIER 1 AND TIER 2 RENEWABLE SOURCES that, except as provided under paragraph (2) of this subsection, applies to all retail electricity sales in the State by electricity suppliers; AND~~

~~B. FROM TIER 3 RENEWABLE SOURCES THAT APPLIES TO ONLY ELECTRIC COMPANIES WHOSE RATES ARE REGULATED BY THE COMMISSION.~~

~~(ii) If the standard becomes applicable to electricity sold to a customer after the start of a calendar year, the standard does not apply to electricity sold to the customer during that portion of the year before the standard became applicable.~~

~~(2) A renewable energy portfolio standard may not apply to electricity sales at retail by any electricity supplier:~~

~~(i) in excess of 300,000,000 kilowatt hours of industrial process load to a single customer in a year;~~

~~(ii) to residential customers in a region of the State in which electricity prices for residential customers are subject to a freeze or cap contained in a settlement agreement entered into under § 7-505 of this title until the freeze or cap has expired; or~~

~~(iii) to a customer served by an electric cooperative under an electricity supplier purchase agreement that existed on October 1, 2004, until the expiration of the agreement.~~