

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE TAX RATE FOR CLASS FOURTEEN PROPERTY;
5 AMENDING SECTION 15-6-157, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A
6 RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

7
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9
10 **Section 1.** Section 15-6-157, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"15-6-157. Class fourteen property -- description -- taxable percentage.** (1) Class fourteen
12 property includes:

13 (a) wind generation facilities of a centrally assessed electric power company;

14 (b) wind generation facilities owned or operated by an exempt wholesale generator or an entity
15 certified as an exempt wholesale generator pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16451;

16 (c) noncentrally assessed wind generation facilities owned or operated by any electrical energy
17 producer;

18 (d) wind generation facilities owned or operated by cooperative rural electric associations
19 described under 15-6-137;

20 (e) biomass generation facilities up to 25 megawatts in nameplate capacity of a centrally assessed
21 electric power company;

22 (f) biomass generation facilities up to 25 megawatts in nameplate capacity owned or operated by
23 an exempt wholesale generator or an entity certified as an exempt wholesale generator pursuant to 42 U.S.C.
24 16451;

25 (g) noncentrally assessed biomass generation facilities up to 25 megawatts in nameplate capacity
26 owned or operated by any electrical energy producer;

27 (h) biomass generation facilities up to 25 megawatts in nameplate capacity owned or operated by
28 cooperative rural electric associations described under 15-6-137;

- 1 (i) energy storage facilities of a centrally assessed electric power company;
- 2 (j) energy storage facilities owned or operated by an exempt wholesale generator or an entity
3 certified as an exempt wholesale generator pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16451;
- 4 (k) noncentrally assessed energy storage facilities owned or operated by any electrical energy
5 producer;
- 6 (l) energy storage facilities owned or operated by cooperative rural electrical associations
7 described under 15-6-137;
- 8 (m) battery energy storage systems that comply with federal standards on the manufacture and
9 installation of the systems that are owned and operated by an electrical energy storage producer, electrical
10 energy producer, or energy trading entity or by the owner or operator of an electrical vehicle charging site;
- 11 (n) all property of a biodiesel production facility, as defined in 15-24-3102, that has commenced
12 construction after June 1, 2007;
- 13 (o) all property of a biogas production facility, as defined in 15-24-3102, that has commenced
14 construction after June 1, 2007;
- 15 (p) all property of a biomass gasification facility, as defined in 15-24-3102;
- 16 (q) all property of a coal gasification facility, as defined in 15-24-3102, except for property in
17 subsection (1)(t) of this section, that sequesters carbon dioxide;
- 18 (r) all property of an ethanol production facility, as defined in 15-24-3102, that has commenced
19 construction after June 1, 2007;
- 20 (s) all property of a geothermal facility, as defined in 15-24-3102;
- 21 (t) all property of an integrated gasification combined cycle facility, as defined in 15-24-3102, that
22 sequesters carbon dioxide, as required by 15-24-3111(4)(c);
- 23 (u) all property or a portion of the property of a renewable energy manufacturing facility, as defined
24 in 15-24-3102, that has commenced construction after June 1, 2007;
- 25 (v) all property of a natural gas combined cycle facility;
- 26 (w) equipment that is used to capture and to prepare for transport carbon dioxide that will be
27 sequestered or injected for the purpose of enhancing the recovery of oil and gas, other than that equipment at
28 coal combustion plants of the types that are generally in commercial use as of December 31, 2007, that

1 commence construction after December 31, 2007;

2 (x) high-voltage direct-current transmission lines and associated equipment and structures,
3 including converter stations and interconnections, other than property classified under 15-6-159, that:

4 (i) originate in Montana with a converter station located in Montana east of the continental divide
5 and that are constructed after July 1, 2007;

6 (ii) are certified under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act; and

7 (iii) provide access to energy markets for Montana electrical generation facilities listed in this
8 section that commenced construction after June 1, 2007;

9 (y) all property of electric transmission lines, including substations, that originate at facilities
10 specified in this subsection (1), with at least 90% of electricity carried by the line originating at facilities specified
11 in this subsection (1) and terminating at an existing transmission line or substation that has commenced
12 construction after June 1, 2007;

13 (z) the qualified portion of an alternating current transmission line and its associated equipment
14 and structures, including interconnections, that has commenced construction after June 1, 2007;

15 (aa) all property of a renewable diesel production facility, as defined in 15-24-3102, that has
16 commenced construction after December 31, 2020; and

17 (bb) all property of a sustainable aviation fuel production facility, as defined in 15-24-3102, that has
18 commenced construction after December 31, 2020.

19 (2) (a) The qualified portion of an alternating current transmission line in subsection (1)(z) is that
20 percentage, as determined by the department of environmental quality, of rated transmission capacity of the
21 line contracted for on a firm basis by buyers or sellers of electricity generated by facilities specified in
22 subsection (1) that are located in Montana.

23 (b) The department of revenue shall classify the total value of an alternating current transmission
24 line in accordance with the determination made by the department of environmental quality pursuant to
25 subsection (2)(a).

26 (c) The owner of property described under this subsection (2) shall disclose the location of the
27 generation facilities specified in subsection (1) and information sufficient to demonstrate that there is a firm
28 contract for transmission capacity available throughout the year. For purposes of the initial qualification, the

1 owner is not required to disclose financial terms and conditions of contracts beyond that needed for
2 classification.

3 (3) Class fourteen property does not include facilities:

4 (a) at which the standard prevailing rate of wages for heavy construction, as provided in 18-2-414,
5 was not paid during the construction phase; or

6 (b) that are exempt under 15-6-225.

7 (4) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

8 (a) "Biomass generation facilities" means any combination of boilers, generators, associated prime
9 movers, and other associated property, including appurtenant land and improvements and personal property,
10 that are normally operated together to produce electric power from the burning of organic material other than
11 coal, petroleum, natural gas, or any products derived from coal, petroleum, or natural gas, with the use of
12 natural gas or other fuels allowed for ignition and to stabilize boiler operations.

13 (b) (i) "Compressed air energy storage" means the conversion of electrical energy to compressed
14 air by using an electrically powered turbocompressor for storage in vessels designed for that purpose and in the
15 earth, including but not limited to deep saline formations, basalt formations, aquifers, depleted oil or gas
16 reservoirs, abandoned mines, and mined rock cavities.

17 (ii) The term includes the conversion of compressed air into electrical energy by using
18 turboexpander equipment and electrical generation equipment.

19 (c) (i) "Energy storage facilities" means hydroelectric pumped storage property, compressed air
20 energy storage property, regenerative fuel cells, batteries, flywheel storage property, or any combination of
21 energy storage facilities directly connected to the electrical power grid and associated property, appurtenant
22 land and improvements, and personal property that are designed to:

23 (A) receive and store electrical energy as potential energy; and

24 (B) convert the stored energy into electrical energy for sale as an energy commodity or as
25 electricity services to balance energy flow on the electrical power grid in order to maintain a stable transmission
26 grid, including but not limited to frequency regulation ancillary services and frequency control.

27 (ii) The term includes only property that in the aggregate can store at least 0.25 megawatt hour
28 and has a power rating of at least 1 megawatt for a period of at least 0.25 hour.

(iii) The term does not include property, including associated property and appurtenant land and improvements, that is used to hold water in ponds, reservoirs, or impoundments related to hydroelectric pumped storage as defined in subsection (4)(e).

(d) "Flywheel storage" means a process that stores energy kinetically in the form of a rotating flywheel. Energy stored by the rotating flywheel can be converted to electrical energy through the flywheel's integrated electric generator.

(e) "Hydroelectric pumped storage" means a process that converts electrical energy to potential energy by pumping water to a higher elevation, where it can be stored indefinitely and then released to pass through hydraulic turbines and generate electrical energy.

(f) (i) "Regenerative fuel cell" means a device that produces hydrogen and oxygen from electricity and water and alternately produces electrical energy and water from stored hydrogen and oxygen.

(ii) The term does not include a green hydrogen facility, green hydrogen pipeline, or green hydrogen storage system as defined in 15-6-163.

(g) "Wind generation facilities" means any combination of a physically connected wind turbine or turbines, associated prime movers, and other associated property, including appurtenant land and improvements and personal property, that are normally operated together to produce electric power from wind.

(5) (a) The department of environmental quality shall determine whether to certify that a transmission line meets the criteria of subsection (1)(x), (1)(y), or (1)(z), as applicable, based on an application provided for in 15-24-3112. The department of environmental quality shall review the certification 10 years after the line is operational, and if the property no longer meets the requirements of subsection (1)(x), (1)(y), or (1)(z), the certification must be revoked.

(b) If the department of revenue finds that a certification previously granted was based on an application that the applicant knew was false or fraudulent, the property must be placed in class nine under 15-6-141. If the application was fraudulent, the applicant may be liable for additional taxes, penalty, and interest from the time that the certification was in effect.

(6) Class fourteen property is taxed at 3% 6% of its market value."

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

2 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Retroactive applicability.** [This act] applies retroactively, within the
3 meaning of 1-2-109, to property tax years beginning after December 31, 2024.

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