

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to establish a standard for renewable energy. (Proposal provided under an initiative petition filed with the Secretary of State on July 6, 2012.)

The proposal would add a new Section 55 to Article 4 of the State Constitution, to read as follows:

Section 55. (1) It is the policy of Michigan to promote and encourage the use of clean renewable electric energy sources. Clean renewable electric energy sources, which naturally replenish over a human rather than geological time frame, are wind, solar, biomass and hydropower.

(2) Beginning no later than 2025, at least 25% of each electricity provider's annual retail electricity sales in Michigan shall be derived from the generation or purchase of electricity produced from clean renewable electric energy sources. The foregoing clean renewable electric energy standard shall be implemented incrementally and in a manner that fosters a diversity of energy generation technologies. Facilities used for satisfying the standard shall be located within Michigan or within the retail customer service territory of any electric utility, municipally-owned electric utility or cooperative electric utility operating in Michigan.

(3) Consumers shall be charged for electricity from clean renewable electric energy sources in the same manner as for electricity from other sources.

(4) To protect consumers, compliance with the clean renewable electric energy standard shall not cause rates charged by electricity providers to increase by more than 1% in any year. Annual extensions for meeting the standard may be granted, but only to the extent demonstrated to be necessary for an electricity provider to comply with the foregoing rate limitation.

(5) The legislature shall enact laws to promote and encourage the employment of Michigan residents and the use of equipment manufactured in Michigan in the production and distribution of electricity derived from clean renewable electric energy sources.

(6) Any provision or portion of this section held unconstitutional shall be severable from the remaining portions, which shall be implemented to the maximum extent possible.