HB 2301 -- COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS

SPONSOR: Berry

This bills specifies that if an electrical corporation plans to
acquire or construct a new supply-side resource in its resource
plan filed with the Public Service Commission, they must provide
for a plan to purchase energy and renewable energy credits from one
or more community solar gardens. Beginning on January 1, 2017, the
electrical corporation must issue offers to purchase energy from
community solar gardens of 500 kW or less, as long as the energy
does not exceed 20% of the corporation's renewable energy standard
portfolio requirements. Beginning January 1, 2022, the Public
Service Commission must determine the electrical corporation's
minimum and maximum purchases of energy from community solar
gardens of different output capacity. At the same time, electrical
corporations must specify a proposal for including low-income
customers as community solar garden subscribers.
Energy generated by a community solar garden can only be sold to
the electrical corporation that provides service in the area in
which the solar garden is located. Electrical corporations can be
eligible to recover a margin, in an amount determined by the Public
Service Commission, on all energy and renewable energy credits
purchased from community solar gardens.
The electrical corporation and subscribers of the community solar
garden are required to provide certain information as specified in
the bill.
Any excess energy generated by the solar garden must be credited to
the community solar garden subscriber in proportion to the
percentage of shares that the subscriber owns of the community
solar garden, less any appropriate customer charges. Any credits
expire within 12 months of issuance, when the subscriber
disconnects service, or when the community solar garden terminates
the agreement to sell excess energy to the electrical corporation.
The provisions of this bill do not apply to rural electric
cooperatives or municipally owned utilities.

This bill is similar to SB 630 (2016).