



## AMENDMENT SUMMARY

---

---

# Disconnection Devices for Distributed Generation HF 548

Status of Bill: House Floor  
Committee: Commerce 22-1  
Lead Democrats: Rep. Dawson  
Floor Manager: Rep. Watts  
Research Analyst: Anna Hyatt-Crozier 515-281-5939  
[anna.hyatt-crozier@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:anna.hyatt-crozier@legis.iowa.gov)

March 26, 2015

---

---

### Bill Summary

The goal of the bill is to set out procedures and requirements that must be followed by electric customers who have or want to install distributed generation facilities (interconnection customer) and connect those facilities with the electric lines of the electric company of which they are currently a customer. Distributed generation facilities are things such as wind turbines and solar panels.

Safety of the electrical workers is cited as the main reason for these procedures. Persons who have already installed a facility and the companies that sell the facilities say that it is unfair to make these procedures and requirements apply retroactively.

### Amendment Summary

**H-1105 by Watts (R)** - Strikes everything after the enacting clause and requires the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) to adopt rules, consistent with their safety jurisdiction, relating to installation and operation of interconnections between distributed generation facilities and electric distribution systems.

The following definitions are included:

**Disconnection Device** - a lockable visual disconnect or other disconnection device capable of disconnecting and de-energizing the residual voltage in a distributed generation facility.

**Distributed Generation Facility** - can be any of the following:

- A cogeneration facility or a small power production facility is used by the customer to generate electricity that operates in parallel with the electric distribution system, and that typically includes an electric generator and the equipment required to interconnect with electrical distribution system or local electric power system.
- An alternate energy production facility as defined in chapter 476.26: a solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource recovery, refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residues, or woodburning facility.
- A small hydro facility as defined in chapter 476.42.

**Electric Distribution System** - the facilities owned and operated by an electric utility that are used to transmit electricity to usage points from interchanges with higher voltage transmission networks over long distances.

**Electric Meter** - a device used by an electric utility that measures and registers the integral of an electrical quantity with respect to time.

Language states that the rules to be adopted by IUB must include procedures for customers to follow regarding the application, approval, and appeal when filing for permission to become an interconnection customer. The rules must also include a requirement that the disconnection device be installed a location that is easily visible and adjacent to the interconnection customer's electric meter. The interconnection customer is required to notify their local paid or volunteer fire department of their distributed generation facility and the disconnection device.

**H-1156 to H-1105 by Watts (R)** - Strikes all language in H-1105 and replaces with much of the same language in H-1105, with exception of the changes listed below.

In the rules that are required to be adopted by the IUB, language states that for installations of distributed generation facilities that were placed in service prior to July 1, 2015, those customers are required to attach a permanent placard at the meter that clearly identifies the presence and location of the disconnection device.

States that the language in the bill cannot be interpreted to authorize IUB to require that an installation or connection of distributed generation facility, disconnection device, or interconnection between a distributed generation facility and an electric distribution system be performed by a licensed electrician, installer, or professional engineer. This new law cannot be interpreted to require inspection of a distributed generation facility, disconnection device, or interconnection between a distributed generation facility and an electric distribution system under chapter 103 (Electricians and Electrical Contractors). The language in this paragraph is the same as amendment H-1151.

**H-1138 to H-1105 by Dawson (D)** - Expands the definition of "disconnection device" to include a service disconnect, breaker, or other disconnect specified by the IUB in rule. Strikes the definition of "electric meter." Adds language to clarify that a required disconnection device can only apply to interconnections that were approved on or after July 1, 2015. Strikes the requirement that the disconnection device be adjacent to the customer's electric meter, but leaves in that it must be easily visible. Changes the notification to the local fire department from the customer to the electric utility. Adds language to specify that an electric utility can only deny or disconnect an interconnection for safety reasons.

**H-1149 to H-1105 by Klein (R)** - Adds clarification that the procedures and requirements previously spelled out do not apply to an interconnection where the installation was completed prior to July 1, 2015.

**H-1151 to H-1105 by Sexton (R)** - States that the language in the bill cannot be interpreted to authorize IUB to require that an installation or connection of distributed generation facility, disconnection device, or interconnection between a distributed generation facility and an electric distribution system be performed by a licensed electrician, installer, or professional engineer. This new law cannot be interpreted to require inspection of a distributed generation facility, disconnection device, or interconnection between a distributed generation facility and an electric distribution system under chapter 103 (Electricians and Electrical Contractors).