

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 196.378 (1) (i); and *to create* 196.374 (1) (gm), 196.374 (2) (a) 2.
2 f. and 196.378 (3) (a) 1s. of the statutes; **relating to:** loans and grants to low-income
3 households for solar hot water systems.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill draft, relating to loans and grants to low-income households for solar hot water systems, was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council’s Special Committee on Strategic Job Creation.

4 **SECTION 1.** 196.374 (1) (gm) of the statutes is created to read:

5 196.374 (1) (gm) “Low-income household” has the meaning given in s. 16.957 (1) (m).

NOTE: This SECTION adopts the definition of “low-income household” for low-income energy assistance programs under s. 16.957 (1) (m), stats., which defines “low-income household” as any individual or group of individuals in this state who are living together as one economic unit and for whom residential electricity is customarily purchased in common or who make undesignated payments for electricity in the form of rent, and whose household income is not more than 60 percent of the statewide median household income.

6 **SECTION 2.** 196.374 (2) (a) 2. f. of the statutes is created to read:

7 196.374 (2) (a) 2. f. Components to provide for the installation of solar hot water
8 systems in low-income households in this state. For each solar hot water system funded under
9 this subd. 2. f., one-half of the funding shall be by grant and one-half of the funding shall be
10 by loan. The program administrator shall obtain reimbursement of loans through full
11 repayment of the principal amount of the loan plus interest not to exceed a rate of interest of
12 1.5 percent per year, to be used to administer and make loans under this subd. 2. f. The

1 commission shall ensure that not less than \$300,000 is spent annually on the program under
2 this subd. 2. f.

NOTE: This SECTION requires that statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource programs that are collectively established and funded by energy utilities in this state include components to provide for the installation of solar hot water systems in low-income households, funded by grants and low-interest loans. The amount of funding provided for the solar hot water systems program must be at least \$300,000 annually.

3 **SECTION 3.** 196.378 (1) (i) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 196.378 (1) (i) “Renewable resource credit” means a credit calculated in accordance
5 with rules promulgated under sub. (3) (a) 1., 1m., 1s. and 2.

NOTE: This SECTION amends the definition of “renewable resource credit” to include the credit created by SECTION 4.

6 **SECTION 4.** 196.378 (3) (a) 1s. of the statutes is created to read:

7 196.378 (3) (a) 1s. The commission shall promulgate rules that allow an electric utility
8 to create a renewable resource credit based on use in a year by customers of the electric utility
9 of solar hot water systems funded under s. 196.374 (2) (a) 2. f., but only if the use displaces
10 the customer’s use of electricity that is derived from conventional resources, and only if the
11 displacement is verifiable and measurable, as determined by the commission. The rules shall
12 allow an electric utility to create a renewable resource credit based on 100 percent of the
13 amount of the displacement.

NOTE: This SECTION requires that the public service commission promulgate rules that allow an electric utility to create a renewable resource credit for use of solar hot water systems that are funded under the program created by SECTION 2.

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(END)