

1 Introduced by Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

2 Date:

3 Subject: Public service; energy; renewable energy programs; Renewable
4 Energy Standard

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the
6 amount of total renewable energy required pursuant to the Renewable Energy
7 Standard and to require a report on the costs of requiring a higher percentage
8 of distributed renewable generation.

9 An act relating to the Renewable Energy Standard

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8005 is amended to read:

12 § 8005. RES CATEGORIES

13 (a) Categories. This section specifies three categories of required resources
14 to meet the requirements of the RES established in section 8004 of this title:
15 total renewable energy, distributed renewable generation, and energy
16 transformation.

17 (1) Total renewable energy.

18 * * *

19 (B) Required amounts. The amounts of total renewable energy
20 required by this subsection shall be ~~55~~ 62 percent of each retail electricity

1 provider’s annual retail electric sales during the year beginning on January 1,
2 ~~2017~~ 2024, increasing by an additional ~~four~~ 9.5 percent each ~~third~~ second
3 January 1 thereafter, until reaching ~~75~~ 100 percent on and after January 1,
4 2032.

5 * * *

6 (E) Procurement. The Commission is authorized to align existing
7 procurement programs and establish one or more new procurement programs
8 for distributed generation that meets the criteria established in subdivision
9 8010(c)(1) of this title.

10 * * *

11 Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 8002 is amended to read:

12 § 8002. DEFINITIONS

13 As used in this chapter:

14 * * *

15 (16) “Net metering system” means a plant for generation of electricity
16 that:

17 (A) is of ~~no~~ not more than 150 kW capacity, unless the customer
18 demonstrates that the customer’s usage will exceed 150 kW, then it shall be
19 not more than 500 kW capacity;

20 (B) operates in parallel with facilities of the electric distribution
21 system;

1 (C) is intended primarily to offset the customer’s own electricity
2 requirements and does not primarily supply electricity to electric vehicle
3 supply equipment, as defined in section 201 of this title, for the resale of
4 electricity to the public by the kWh or for other retail sales to the public,
5 including those based in whole or in part on a flat fee per charging session or a
6 time-based fee for occupying a parking space while using electric vehicle
7 supply equipment; and

8 (D)(i) employs a renewable energy source; or

9 (ii) is a qualified micro-combined heat and power system of 20
10 kW or fewer that meets the definition of combined heat and power in
11 subsection 8015(b) of this title and uses any fuel source that meets air quality
12 standards.

13 * * *

14 Sec. 3. ANALYSIS CONCERNING INCREASING DISTRIBUTED
15 RENEWABLE GENERATION AND REPORT

16 (a) On or before August 15, 2023, the Joint Fiscal Office shall issue a
17 request for proposal (RFP) to analyze the costs, advantages and disadvantages,
18 and impacts of increasing the amount of distributed renewable generation
19 required pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8005(a)(2)(C) to:

20 (1) 20 percent on and after January 1, 2032; or

21 (2) 30 percent on and after January 1, 2032.

1 (b)(1) The analysis shall include a full life-cycle analysis of the costs and
2 benefits of these levels of generation, including an examination of the potential
3 value of such generation when designed in combination with other strategies to
4 increase the value through measures such as:

5 (A) generation collocated with sufficient load to consume the
6 majority of the energy produced;

7 (B) generation that includes energy storage resources independent of
8 control of the interconnected distribution utility and

9 (C) generation that includes energy storage resources under the
10 control of the interconnected distribution utility.

11 (2) The analysis shall also address additional impacts including:

12 (A) increased revenues to the host municipality and State, including
13 revenues from grand list growth; and

14 (B) increased revenues to the State due to job creation.

15 (c) The Joint Fiscal Office shall contract with an independent third party to
16 conduct the analysis described in this section. The independent third party
17 shall consult with the relevant stakeholders and shall have the cooperation of
18 the Department of Public Service and the Public Utility Commission.

19 (d) On or before January 14, 2024, the analysis and recommendations shall
20 be reported to the House Committee on Environment and Energy and the
21 Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Finance.

1 (e) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$25,000.00 in general funds is
2 appropriated to the Joint Fiscal Office for the report described in this section.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.