

1 H.712

2 Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Anthony of Barre City,  
3 Cina of Burlington, Fegard of Berkshire, Hooper of Burlington,  
4 McCullough of Williston, Ode of Burlington, Townsend of  
5 South Burlington, and White of Hartford

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Public service; Department of Public Service; renewable energy

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to have the  
10 Department of Public Service issue a report with recommendations concerning  
11 solar development, the grid, and increasing the distributed renewable  
12 generation requirement under the Renewable Energy Standard.

13 An act relating to the Department of Public Service and a report with  
14 recommendations concerning solar, the grid, and distributed renewable  
15 generation

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

17 Sec. 1. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT AND

18 RECOMMENDATIONS

19 (a) On or before January 15, 2021, the Department of Public Service shall  
20 submit a report to the General Assembly containing recommendations,  
21 including proposed statutory language if appropriate, concerning:

1           (1) The best locations for solar development and whether those locations  
2           are also the most appropriate to meet anticipated future load.

3           (2) The current capacity and reliability of the transmission grid, the  
4           ability of the grid to handle an increase in solar and other renewable resources,  
5           and whether grid upgrades are required to allow for an expansion of solar and  
6           other renewable resources.

7           (3) How best to spread the cost of grid upgrades that are necessary to  
8           allow the development of a solar or other renewable energy project across a  
9           utility service area, as opposed to imposing this cost on the project developer.

10           (4) How best to ensure that net metering rates are appropriate and  
11           sufficient to encourage the continuing growth of solar in the State, including  
12           whether the process for setting net metering rates considers all of the benefits  
13           stemming from continuing to grow Vermont's solar industry. These benefits  
14           include increased employment, economic development, and that monies spent  
15           on solar project development and installation stay in-state.

16           (b) In developing the recommendations to be contained in the report  
17           pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Department of Public Service  
18           shall consult with all relevant stakeholders and interested parties, including  
19           electric generation and transmission utilities, solar and renewable energy  
20           advocates and companies, the Vermont Electric Power Company, and  
21           members of the public.

1       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.