

1 H.799

2 Introduced by Representatives Notte of Rutland City, Chesnut-Tangerman of  
3 Middletown Springs, Cordes of Lincoln, Fegard of Berkshire,  
4 Lefebvre of Newark, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Seymour of Sutton,  
5 and White of Hartford

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Energy; Public Utility Commission; registration for ground-mounted  
9 photovoltaic systems

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
11 Public Utility Commission to amend its rules so that ground-mounted solar  
12 systems up to 50kW shall qualify for the registration process.

13 An act relating to the registration process for ground-mounted solar systems

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

15 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

16 The General Assembly finds that:

17 (1) In recent years, ground-mounted solar projects of 15–50 kW have  
18 been declining in number. This bill is intended to reverse this decline by  
19 lessening the regulatory burden imposed on Vermonters seeking to install these  
20 projects.

1           (2) Ground-mounted solar projects of up to 50 kW are smaller than most  
2           of the commercial projects that are favored by institutional investors and will  
3           often be installed adjacent to a home or business. As a result, they do not raise  
4           the same concerns and do not need the same lengthy regulatory review process  
5           as larger projects.

6           (3) Encouraging ground-mounted solar projects of up to 50 kW is an  
7           important part of Vermont's efforts to encourage renewable energy and  
8           mitigate climate change. For example, 50 kW of capacity is required to fully  
9           charge one level-three electric vehicle station at peak generation, and  
10           encouraging the growth of the charging infrastructure necessary for  
11           Vermonters to switch to electric vehicles is essential if Vermont wishes to  
12           reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

13           (4) As a result, streamlining the regulatory process applicable to ground-  
14           mounted solar projects of up to 50 kW will benefit Vermonters looking to  
15           invest in solar projects on their own property, reverse the decline in the  
16           installation of these projects, and allow more Vermonters to benefit from the  
17           adoption of clean solar energy.

18           Sec. 2. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION; RULES

19           The Public Utility Commission shall amend its rules, including Rules 5.105  
20           and 5.106, or adopt a new rule or rules, as necessary, to ensure that the  
21           registration process set forth in Rule 5.105 shall apply to ground-mounted

1 photovoltaic systems of up to 50 kW. The other registration requirements set  
2 forth in Rule 5.105, including applicability, form and content, time frames,  
3 service, and interconnection, shall not be amended, except that grammatical,  
4 organizational, and other nonsubstantive changes may be made if necessary.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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