

1 S.264

2 Introduced by Senators Balint, Clarkson, Hardy, Lyons, MacDonald, Pearson
3 and Perchlik

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Public service; energy; renewable energy; Renewable Energy
7 Standard

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make multiple
9 changes to the Renewable Energy Standard, including increasing the total
10 renewable energy requirement to 100 percent by 2030.

11 An act relating to the Renewable Energy Standard

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

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

14 § 8005. RES CATEGORIES

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

19 (1) Total renewable energy.

1 (A) Purpose; establishment. To encourage the economic and
2 environmental benefits of renewable energy, this subdivision establishes, for
3 the RES, minimum total amounts of renewable energy within the supply
4 portfolio of each retail electricity provider. To satisfy this requirement, a
5 provider may use renewable energy with environmental attributes attached or
6 any class of tradeable renewable energy credits generated by any renewable
7 energy plant whose energy is capable of delivery in New England.

8 (B) Required amounts.

9 (i) The amounts of total renewable energy required by this
10 subsection (a) shall be ~~55~~ 59 percent of each retail electricity provider's annual
11 retail electric sales during the year beginning on January 1, ~~2017~~ 2024,
12 increasing by an additional ~~four~~ 10.25 percent each ~~third~~ second January 1
13 thereafter, until reaching ~~75~~ 100 percent on and after January 1, ~~2032~~ 2030.

14 (ii) Of the amount required by this subsection (a), not less than
15 one percent of each retail electricity provider's annual retail electric sales
16 during the year beginning on January 1, 2024 shall be new renewable energy
17 generation from a plant constructed after June 1, 2012, of any size within New
18 England, increasing by not less than an additional three percent each January 1
19 thereafter, until reaching not less than 25 percent on and after January 1, 2032.

20 (C) Relationship to other categories. Distributed renewable
21 generation used to meet the requirements of subdivision (2) of this subsection

1 (a) shall also count toward the requirements of ~~this~~ subdivision (B)(i) of this
2 subdivision (a)(1) but shall not count toward the requirements of subdivision
3 (B)(ii) of this subdivision (a)(1). ~~However, an~~ An energy transformation
4 project under subdivision (3) of this subsection (a) shall not count toward the
5 requirements of ~~this~~ subdivision (1) of this subsection (a).

6 * * *

7 (2) Distributed renewable generation.

8 * * *

9 (B) Definition. As used in this section, “distributed renewable
10 generation” means one of the following:

11 (i) a renewable energy plant that is new renewable energy; and has
12 a plant capacity of five MW or less; and

13 (I) is directly connected to the subtransmission or distribution
14 system of a Vermont retail electricity provider; or

15 (II) is directly connected to the transmission system of an
16 electric company required to submit a Transmission System Plan under
17 subsection 218c(d) of this title, if the plant is part of a plan approved by the
18 Commission to avoid or defer a transmission system improvement needed to
19 address a transmission system reliability deficiency identified and analyzed in
20 that Plan; ~~or~~

1 (ii) a net metering system approved under the former section 219a
2 or under section 8010 of this title if the system is new renewable energy and
3 the interconnecting retail electricity provider owns and retires the system's
4 environmental attributes; or

5 (iii) a hydroelectric renewable energy plant that has a plant
6 capacity of five MW or less and is owned and operated by a retail electricity
7 provider that is a municipal electric utility as of January 1, 2020, including any
8 future modifications.

9 (C) Required amounts. The required amounts of distributed
10 renewable generation shall be one percent of each retail electricity provider's
11 annual retail electric sales during the year beginning January 1, 2017,
12 increasing by an additional three-fifths of a percent each subsequent January 1
13 until reaching not less than 40 3.4 percent on and after January 1, 2024 and
14 increasing by not less than an additional 2.7 percent each subsequent January 1
15 until reaching not less than 25 percent on and after January 1, 2032.

16 * * *

17 (E) Procurement. The Commission is authorized to align existing
18 procurement programs and establish one or more new procurement programs
19 for distributed generation that meets the criteria established in subdivision
20 8010(c)(1) of this title.

21 * * *

1 Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. 8004(g) is added to read:

2 (g) Energy from large hydroelectric plants. Beginning on January 1, 2023,
3 annually, a retail electric provider shall not purchase more energy from a
4 hydroelectric renewable energy generation plant with a capacity greater than
5 200 MW than it purchased in 2022.

6 Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 8002 is amended to read:

7 § 8002. DEFINITIONS

8 As used in this chapter:

9 * * *

10 (26) “Tradeable renewable energy credits” means all of the
11 environmental attributes associated with a single unit of energy generated by a
12 renewable energy source where:

13 (A) those attributes are transferred or recorded separately from that
14 unit of energy;

15 (B) the party claiming ownership of the tradeable renewable energy
16 credits has acquired the exclusive legal ownership of all, and not less than all,
17 the environmental attributes associated with that unit of energy; and

18 (C) exclusive legal ownership can be verified through an auditable
19 contract path or pursuant to the system established or authorized by the
20 Commission or any program for tracking and verification of the ownership of

1 environmental attributes of energy legally recognized in any state and
2 approved by the Commission.

3 (D) Tradeable renewable energy credits shall not include attributes
4 transferred or recorded separately from the energy if that energy is from a
5 hydroelectric renewable energy generation plant with a capacity greater than
6 200 MW.

7 * * *

8 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024, except that this section and Sec. 2
10 (30 V.S.A. § 8004(g)) shall take effect on July 1, 2022.