

1 S.202

2 Introduced by Senators Watson, Bongartz, Chittenden, Clarkson, Gulick,

3 Hardy, Lyons, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Weeks and White

4 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

5 Date: January 6, 2026

6 Subject: Public service; energy; renewable energy; solar energy; portable solar

7 energy generation devices

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow

9 portable solar energy generation devices to be installed without a certificate of
10 public good.

11 ~~An act relating to portable solar energy generation devices~~

An act relating to plug-in photovoltaic devices

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

13 ~~Ch. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 201 is amended to read:~~

14 § 201. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this chapter.

16 * * *

17 (9) “Portable solar energy generation device” means a movable

18 photovoltaic generation device that:

1 (A) has a maximum power output to the electric grid of not more
2 than 1,200 watts;

3 (B) is designed to be connected to a building's electrical system via
4 an electrical cord plugged into a receptacle;

5 (C) is intended primarily to offset part of the customer's electricity
6 consumption;

7 (D) includes a feature that prevents the system from energizing the
8 building's electrical system during a power outage;

9 (E) is certified by Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent
10 Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory for use in the United States; and

11 (F) is connected to a building that is connected the electric grid.

12 Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 256 is added to read:

13 § 256. PORTABLE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION DEVICES

14 (a) The installation of a portable solar energy generation device shall not
15 be required to comply with the requirements of section 248 of this chapter or
16 be required to obtain an interconnection agreement with an electric distribution
17 company.

18 (b) On or before September 10, 2026, the Public Utility Commission, in
19 consultation with the Division of Fire Safety and the electric distribution
20 companies, shall develop a simple notification form for customers who install
21 portable solar energy devices, which shall, at a minimum, include name of

1 ~~customer and contact information, address of installation, the customer's~~
2 electric utility, and meter number. The form shall be available in an online
3 version and a printable version. An electric distribution company may require
4 customers to submit the notification form to the company after installation of
5 the device.

6 (c) An electric distribution company shall not require a customer using a
7 portable solar energy generation device to:

8 (1) obtain the company's approval before installing or using the device;

9 (2) pay any fee or charge related to the device; or

10 (3) install any additional controls or equipment beyond what is
11 integrated into the device.

12 (d) A portable solar energy generation device shall not be eligible for net
13 metering.

14 (e) A portable solar energy device in a public building, as defined in 20
15 V.S.A. § 2730, shall be used in a manner that complies with all applicable
16 requirements of the most recent Fire and Building Safety Code adopted by the
17 Division of Fire Safety.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.~~

~~Sec. 4. V.S.A. § 201 is amended to read.~~

~~§ 201. DEFINITIONS~~

~~As used in this chapter.~~

~~***~~

~~(9) “Portable solar energy generation device” means a movable photovoltaic generation device that:~~

~~(A) is designed to be connected to a building’s electrical system via an electrical cord plugged into a receptacle;~~

~~(B) includes a feature that prevents the system from energizing the building’s electrical system during a power outage;~~

~~(C) complies with UL 3700 for plug-in photovoltaic systems by UL Solutions or an equivalent certification by an equivalent Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory for use in the United States; and~~

~~(D) is connected to a building that is connected to the electric grid.~~

~~Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 256 is added to read:~~

~~§ 256. PORTABLE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION DEVICES~~

~~(a) A customer may install one or more portable solar energy generation devices per electric meter if the devices have a maximum combined capacity of not more than 1,200 watts. Portable solar energy generation devices shall only be connected to systems using smart meters.~~

~~(b) The installation of a portable solar energy generation device that complies with subsection (a) of this section shall not be required to comply with the requirements of section 248 of this chapter or be required to obtain an interconnection agreement with an electric distribution company.~~

~~(c) An electric distribution company shall not require a customer using a portable solar energy generation device that complies with subsection (a) of this section to:~~

~~(1) obtain the company’s approval before installing or using the device;~~

~~(2) pay any fee or charge related to the device; or~~

~~(3) install any additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the device.~~

~~(d) A customer with a net metering system shall not also install a portable solar energy generation device. A portable solar energy generation device shall not be eligible for net metering. Excess generation fed back into the grid by a portable solar energy generation device shall not be compensated by an electric distribution company.~~

~~(e) A portable solar energy device in a public building, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2730, shall be used in a manner that complies with all applicable~~

~~requirements of the most recent Fire and Building Safety Code adopted by the Division of Fire Safety.~~

~~Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4413(g) is amended to read:~~

~~(g) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a bylaw adopted under this chapter shall not:~~

~~(1) Regulate the installation, operation, and maintenance, of a portable solar energy generation device or on a flat roof of an otherwise complying structure, of a solar energy device that heats water or space or generates electricity. For the purpose of this subdivision, "flat roof" means a roof having a slope less than or equal to five degrees.~~

~~(2) Prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the installation of solar collectors not exempted from regulation under subdivision (1) of this subsection, clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable resources.~~

~~Sec. 4. 27 V.S.A. § 544 is amended to read:~~

~~§ 544. ENERGY DEVICES BASED ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES~~

~~(a) No deed restrictions, covenants, or similar binding agreements running with the land shall prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting solar collectors, clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable resources from being installed on or, for a portable solar energy generation device as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 201, appurtenant to buildings erected on the lots or parcels covered by the deed restrictions, covenants, or binding agreements. A property owner may not be denied permission to install solar collectors or other energy devices based on renewable resources by any entity granted the power or right in any deed restriction, covenant, or similar binding agreement to approve, forbid, control, or direct alteration of property with respect to residential dwellings. For purposes of this subsection, that entity may determine the specific location where solar collectors may be installed on the roof within an orientation to the south or within 45° east or west of due south, provided that this determination does not impair the effective operation of the solar collectors.~~

~~* * *~~

~~(c) The legislative intent in enacting this section is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by encouraging the development and use of renewable resources in order to conserve and protect the value of land, buildings, and resources by preventing measures that will have the ultimate effect, whether or not intended, of driving the costs of owning and operating commercial or residential property beyond the capacity of private owners to maintain. This section shall not apply to patio railings in condominiums.~~

~~Cooperatives, or apartments, except for a portable solar energy generation device.~~

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.~~

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 201 is amended to read:

§ 201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(9) "Plug-in photovoltaic device" means a photovoltaic generation device that:

(A) is designed to be connected to a building's electrical system via an electrical cord plugged into a receptacle;

(B) includes a feature that prevents the system from energizing the building's electrical system during a power outage;

(C) complies with UL 3700 for plug-in photovoltaic systems by UL Solutions or an equivalent certification by an equivalent Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory for use in the United States and is installed and operated in compliance with IEEE 1547-2018 and any successor standard, using default performance and setting profiles consistent with those developed by regional transmission and distribution system operators; and

(D) is connected to a building that is connected to the electric grid.

Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 256 is added to read:

§ 256. PLUG-IN PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICES

(a) A customer may install one or more plug-in photovoltaic devices per electric meter if the devices have a maximum combined inverter capacity of not more than 1,200 watts. Plug-in photovoltaic devices shall only be connected to systems using smart meters. A customer shall ensure a device is temporarily but securely attached to the ground or a structure.

(b) The installation of a plug-in photovoltaic device that complies with subsection (a) of this section shall not be required to comply with the requirements of section 248 of this chapter, shall not be required to obtain an interconnection agreement with an electric distribution company, and shall not otherwise be subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission.

(c) An electric distribution company shall not require a customer using a plug-in photovoltaic device that complies with subsection (a) of this section to:

(1) obtain the company's approval before installing or using the device;
(2) pay any fee or charge related to the installation of the device; or
(3) install any additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the device.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prevent an electric distribution company from recovering costs associated with the overloading of the service provided due to the presence of a plug-in photovoltaic device.

(e) A customer with a net metering system shall not also install a plug-in photovoltaic device. A plug-in photovoltaic device shall not be eligible for net metering. Generation exported to the grid by a plug-in photovoltaic device shall not be compensated by an electric distribution company.

(f) A plug-in photovoltaic device in a public building, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2730, shall be used in a manner that complies with all applicable requirements of the most recent Fire and Building Safety Code adopted by the Division of Fire Safety.

~~(g) No tenant shall install a plug-in photovoltaic device without the landlord's permission. A tenant shall provide at least 10 days' notice to the landlord of the tenant's intent to install a plug-in photovoltaic device in compliance with subsection (a) of this section in the building. The landlord shall respond within 10 days with any reasonable restrictions on the installation of the device or may deny installation.~~

(g) A tenant shall provide at least 10 days' notice to the landlord of the tenant's intent to install a plug-in photovoltaic device in compliance with subsection (a) of this section in the building. The landlord shall respond within 10 days with any reasonable restrictions on the installation of the device, including requiring the tenant to pay for any required electrical work and hiring a licensed electrician to do the work. If the landlord does not respond within 10 days, the tenant may proceed with installation. A tenant shall not perform or hire someone to perform electrical work on the premises for the installation of a plug-in photovoltaic device without the landlord's permission. A landlord shall not be compelled to perform or pay for electrical work on the premises to allow for the installation of a plug-in photovoltaic device.

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4413(g) is amended to read:

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a bylaw adopted under this chapter shall not:

(1) Regulate the installation, operation, and maintenance of a plug-in photovoltaic device or, on a flat roof of an otherwise complying structure, of a

solar energy device that heats water or space or generates electricity. For the purpose of this subdivision, "flat roof" means a roof having a slope less than or equal to five degrees.

(2) Prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the installation of solar collectors not exempted from regulation under subdivision (1) of this subsection, clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable resources.

Sec. 4. 27 V.S.A. § 544 is amended to read:

§ 544. ENERGY DEVICES BASED ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES

(a) No deed restrictions, covenants, or similar binding agreements running with the land shall prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting solar collectors, clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable resources from being installed on or, for a plug-in photovoltaic device as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 201, appurtenant to buildings erected on the lots or parcels covered by the deed restrictions, covenants, or binding agreements. A property owner may not be denied permission to install solar collectors or other energy devices based on renewable resources by any entity granted the power or right in any deed restriction, covenant, or similar binding agreement to approve, forbid, control, or direct alteration of property with respect to residential dwellings. For purposes of this subsection, that entity may determine the specific location where solar collectors may be installed on the roof within an orientation to the south or within 45° east or west of due south, provided that this determination does not impair the effective operation of the solar collectors.

** * **

(c) The legislative intent in enacting this section is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by encouraging the development and use of renewable resources in order to conserve and protect the value of land, buildings, and resources by preventing measures that will have the ultimate effect, whether or not intended, of driving the costs of owning and operating commercial or residential property beyond the capacity of private owners to maintain. This section shall not apply to patio railings in condominiums, cooperatives, or apartments, except for a plug-in photovoltaic device.

Sec. 5. 9 V.S.A. § 2795 is amended to read:

§ 2795. EFFICIENCY AND WATER CONSERVATION STANDARDS

(a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 establishing minimum efficiency standards for the types of new products set forth in section 2794 of this title. The rules shall provide for the following minimum efficiency standards for products sold or installed in this State:

* * *

~~(6) In the rules, the Commissioner shall adopt minimum efficiency and water conservation standards for each product that is subject to a standard under 10 C.F.R. §§ 430 and 431 as those provisions existed on January 19, 2017 2025. The minimum standard and the testing protocol for each product shall be the same as adopted in those sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, except that for faucets, showerheads, and urinals, the minimum standard and testing protocol shall be as otherwise set forth in this section.~~

~~(6) In the rules, the Commissioner shall adopt minimum efficiency and water conservation standards for each product that is subject to a standard under 10 C.F.R. §§ 430 and 431 as those provisions existed on January 19, 2017 2025 and amended in a final rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Expanded Scope Electric Motors" signed on January 8, 2025, excluding any motor incorporated into a product to which a federal energy conservation standard applies under 10 C.F.R. § 430 or 431. The minimum standard and the testing protocol for each product shall be the same as adopted in those sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, except that for faucets, showerheads, and urinals, the minimum standard and testing protocol shall be as otherwise set forth in this section.~~

(6) In the rules, the Commissioner shall adopt minimum efficiency and water conservation standards for each product that is subject to a standard under 10 C.F.R. §§ 430 and 431 as those provisions existed on January 19, 2017 2025. The minimum standard and the testing protocol for each product shall be the same as adopted in those sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, except that for faucets, showerheads, and urinals, the minimum standard and testing protocol shall be as otherwise set forth in this section.

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Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.