

S.202

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

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

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Date: January 6, 2026

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

energy generation devices

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

portable solar energy generation devices to be installed without a certificate of

public good.

An act relating to portable solar energy generation devices

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

~~Sec. 1. 30 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) has a maximum power output to the electric grid of not more

than 1,200 watts;

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 256. PORTABLE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION DEVICES

(a) The installation of a portable solar energy generation device 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.

(b) On or before September 10, 2026, the Public Utility Commission, in
consultation with the Division of Fire Safety and the electric distribution
companies, shall develop a simple notification form for customers who install
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. 1. 30 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.