

S.202

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) 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

1 of not more than 1,200 watts. Portable solar energy generation devices shall  
2 only be connected to systems using smart meters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 § 544. ENERGY DEVICES BASED ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES

16 (a) No deed restrictions, covenants, or similar binding agreements running  
17 with the land shall prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting solar collectors,  
18 clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable resources from being  
19 installed on or, for a portable solar energy generation device as defined in 30  
20 V.S.A. § 201, appurtenant to buildings erected on the lots or parcels covered  
21 by the deed restrictions, covenants, or binding agreements. A property owner

1 may not be denied permission to install solar collectors or other energy devices  
2 based on renewable resources by any entity granted the power or right in any  
3 deed restriction, covenant, or similar binding agreement to approve, forbid,  
4 control, or direct alteration of property with respect to residential dwellings.  
5 For purposes of this subsection, that entity may determine the specific location  
6 where solar collectors may be installed on the roof within an orientation to the  
7 south or within 45° east or west of due south, provided that this determination  
8 does not impair the effective operation of the solar collectors.

9 \* \* \*

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

19 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

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