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S.50

Introduced by Senators Watson, Beck, Bongartz, Hardy and Williams

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Date: February 5, 2025

Subject: Public service; energy; renewable energy; solar energy; net metering

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for an expedited approval process from 15 kW to 25 kW.

An act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration

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

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8010 is amended to read:

§ 8010. SELF-GENERATION AND NET METERING

\* \* \*

(c) In accordance with this section, the Commission shall adopt and implement rules that govern the installation and operation of net metering systems.

\* \* \*

(3) The rules shall establish standards and procedures governing application for and issuance or revocation of a certificate of public good for

1 net metering systems under the provisions of section 248 of this title. In  
2 establishing these standards and procedures:

3 \* \* \*

4 (F) This subdivision (F) applies to an application for a net metering  
5 system with a capacity that is greater than ~~15~~ 25 kilowatts, unless the system is  
6 located on a new or existing structure the primary purpose of which is not the  
7 generation of electricity. With respect to such a system, the rules shall not  
8 waive or include provisions that are less stringent than each of the following:

9 (i) the requirement of subdivision 248(a)(4)(C) of this title to  
10 provide a copy of the application to the Agencies of Agriculture, Food and  
11 Markets and of Natural Resources; the Department of Public Service; the  
12 Division for Historic Preservation; the municipal legislative body; and the  
13 municipal and regional planning commissions; and

14 (ii) the requirements of subsection 248(f) (preapplication  
15 submittal) of this title.

(G) The rules shall establish an expedited registration procedure for  
net metering systems ~~up to 25 kilowatts~~ *25 kilowatts and less* in size.

16 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 2. RULEMAKING

The Public Utility Commission shall update its Rule 5.100 to allow ground mounted photovoltaic net metering systems ~~of not more than 25 kW~~ of 25 kilowatts and less to qualify for expedited registration. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commission shall allow systems of not more than ~~25 kW~~ of 25 kilowatts and less to use the expedited registration before the rules are updated.

*Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 is amended to read:*

*§ 4412. REQUIRED PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITED EFFECTS*

*\* \* \**

*(15) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of sections 2291a and 4413 of this title or 30 V.S.A. chapter 5 or 89, in a municipality that has adopted a bylaw to establish setback requirements for development, those requirements shall apply to a net metering system that is 25 kW or less in size that has been registered with the Public Utility Commission as part of expedited review under 30 V.S.A. § 248. Setback requirements under this subdivision shall not be more restrictive than requirements applied to other development in the municipality under this chapter.*

*Sec. 4. 30 V.S.A. § 8010 is amended to read:*

*§ 8010. SELF-GENERATION AND NET METERING*

*\* \* \**

*(c) In accordance with this section, the Commission shall adopt and implement rules that govern the installation and operation of net metering systems.*

*(1) The rules shall establish and maintain a net metering program that:*

*\* \* \**

*(G) accounts for changes over time in the cost of technology; ~~and~~*

*(H) allows a customer to retain ownership of the environmental attributes of energy generated by the customer's net metering system and of any associated tradeable renewable energy credits or to transfer those attributes and credits to the interconnecting retail provider; and:*

*(i) if the customer retains the attributes, reduces the value of the credit provided under this section for electricity generated by the customer's net metering system by an appropriate amount; and*

*(ii) if the customer transfers the attributes to the interconnecting provider; requires the provider to retain them for application toward compliance with sections 8004 and 8005 of this title; and*

*(I) allows a customer to change their decision one time to retain or transfer the attributes of a new or existing system if the system is 25 kW or less in size.*

\* \* \*

1 Sec. ~~3~~5. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.