

S.202- An act relating to plug-in photovoltaic devices

As Passed by the House
Section by Section Summary
8 May 2026

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Sec. 1 amends 30 V.S.A. § 201, the definition section of Title 30, chapter 5. It adds a new definition of “plug-in photovoltaic device.” It means a solar energy generation device that is designed to be connected to a building’s electrical system via cord with a plug; includes a feature that prevents the system from energizing the building’s electrical system during a power outage; complies with UL 3700 by UL Solutions or an equivalent; is installed and operated in compliance with IEEE 1547-2018; and is connected to a building connected to the electric grid.

Sec. 2 creates 30 V.S.A. § 256, the statute that governs plug-in photovoltaic devices. It includes the following:

- (a) A customer may install one or more plug-in photovoltaic devices that meet the definition in § 201 per electric meter if they 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. The device must be temporarily but securely attached to the ground or a structure.
- (b) The installation of a device that complies with subsection (a) of this section shall not be required to comply with the requirements of section 248 of this chapter (to get a certificate of public good), shall not be required to obtain an interconnection agreement with an electric utility, and shall not otherwise be subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission.
- (c) An electric utility shall not require a customer using a plug-in photovoltaic device to get approval before installing or using the device; pay any fee or charge related to the installation of the device; or install any additional controls or equipment
- (d) An electric utility may recover costs associated with the overloading of the service due to the presence of a plug-in photovoltaic device.
- (e) Plug-in photovoltaic devices are not eligible for net metering and a net metering customer shall not also install a plug-in photovoltaic device. Generation exported to the grid by a device shall not be compensated by an electric utility.
- (f) A plug-in photovoltaic device in a public building shall be used in a manner that complies with Fire and Building Safety Code.
- (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.

Sec. 3 amends 24 V.S.A. § 4413(g) to include plug-in photovoltaic devices. This statute states that towns cannot prohibit or regulate solar devices in their zoning bylaws. This bill adds plug-in photovoltaic devices so that towns cannot also prohibit or regulate them.

Sec. 4 amends 27 V.S.A. § 544 to include plug-in photovoltaic devices. This statute prohibits private entities, like HOAs or condominiums, from creating deed restrictions, covenants, or similar binding agreements running with the land that prevent a property from adding renewable energy devices. This bill adds plug-in photovoltaic devices.

Sec. 5 amends 9 V.S.A. § 2795, the statute that lists the appliances covered by Vermont’s appliance efficiency standards. Subsection (6) on the list states that the Commissioner of Public Service shall include in the rules on appliance efficiency, any products listed on the Federal appliance efficiency list in 10 C.F.R. §§ 430 and 431 as those provisions existed on January 19, 2017. This bill changes the date to January 19, 2025 in order capture updates to the list made at the Federal level.

Sec. 6 is the effective date which is July 1, 2026.

This bill also changes the name of the bill from “An act relating to portable solar energy generation devices “ to “An act relating to plug-in photovoltaic devices” to reflect that the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure committee changed the name of devices in this bill.