

Report of Committee of Conference

H. 710

An act relating to defining electricity generating facilities.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

H.710. An act relating to defining electricity generating facilities.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House accede to the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendment thereto by striking out Sec. 2a, primary agricultural soils and solar report, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2a to read as follows:

Sec. 2a. PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL SOILS AND SOLAR REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2027, the Commissioner of Public Service, after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Public Utility Commission, and the Agency of Natural Resources, shall report back on the following questions:

(1) In the last two years, for solar energy generation projects with a capacity of 1 MW or greater, how many acres of primary agricultural soils used for solar energy generation development were directly impacted by the project, as opposed to the acreage that is within the project's area of disturbance?

(2) In the last two years, what are the cumulative impacts, in acres, of forest clearing associated with solar energy generation projects with a capacity of 1 MW or greater, and what are the specific impacts on the Highest Priority Landscapes identified by Vermont Conservation Design as well as any impacts on State-Significant natural communities?

(b) The Commissioner shall include in the report recommendations on how to encourage the siting of solar energy generation on land that has already been disturbed, including rooftops and parking lots, and potential financial structures that would make solar energy generation on those sites more financially feasible.

(c) The report shall be submitted to the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy.

SEN. ANNE E. WATSON

SEN. SCOTT L. BECK

SEN. RUTH E. HARDY

Committee on the part of the Senate

REP. KATHLEEN C. JAMES

REP. BRAM KLEPPNER

REP. LAURA H. SIBILIA

Committee on the part of the House