



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

***Raised Bill No. 5505***

LCO No. 2999



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:  
(CE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN TO LEVERAGE PRIVATE CAPITAL  
TO FUND SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS IN THE STATE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of  
2 Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the  
3 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall establish a  
4 pilot program to leverage private capital to fund solar energy projects  
5 in the state.

6 (b) Not later than September 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Economic  
7 and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner  
8 of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall identify five proposed  
9 solar energy projects in the state, each having an aggregate nameplate  
10 capacity rating between one hundred and two hundred fifty megawatts.

11 (c) Not later than October 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Economic and  
12 Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
13 Energy and Environmental Protection, shall issue a request for  
14 proposals, through which an owner of a property that is not less than  
15 two hundred acres and the municipality in which such property is

16 located may jointly apply for consideration as the location for one of the  
17 solar energy projects identified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.  
18 Such proposals shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

19 (1) The cost for a private developer of a solar energy project to lease  
20 or purchase the property from such property's owner;

21 (2) The total amount of any municipal fees that may be assessed on a  
22 private developer of a solar energy project who develops a solar energy  
23 project on the property, which shall not exceed five per cent of the cost  
24 of such project or ten million dollars, whichever is less; and

25 (3) The total amount of annual property taxes that shall be assessed  
26 by the municipality on the property.

27 (d) On or before January 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Economic and  
28 Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
29 Energy and Environmental Protection, shall develop a plan to (1)  
30 expedite the permitting, grid connectivity and approval process for each  
31 project identified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (2) solicit  
32 competitive bids from private developers of solar energy projects to  
33 construct and operate any project identified pursuant to subsection (b)  
34 of this section. Not later than January 1, 2021, the Commissioner of  
35 Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the  
36 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall submit a  
37 report detailing such plan, the projects identified pursuant to subsection  
38 (b) of this section and the proposals submitted pursuant to subsection  
39 (c) of this section and recommendations for any requisite legislative  
40 proposals for the continuation of the pilot program established pursuant  
41 to subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committees of the  
42 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce,  
43 energy and the environment, in accordance with the provisions of  
44 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to (1) identify five proposed solar energy projects in the state, (2) solicit proposals from property owners and municipalities to become the locations for such solar energy projects, and (3) develop a plan to expedite the permitting, grid connectivity and approval process for such solar energy projects.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*