

Chapter 161

(Senate Bill 353)

AN ACT concerning

Electric Companies – Installation of Solar Electric Generating Facility – New Interconnection Agreement

FOR the purpose of requiring a person who is negotiating a certain solar installation and interconnection contract with a ~~customer to contact the customer's~~ certain customer-generator to submit to the customer-generator's electric company ~~to determine whether the electric company is accepting new interconnection agreements in the customer's property area and to notify the customer of this determination before the contract is executed~~ a certain application; allowing a certain person to accept a certain payment before receiving a certain approval; prohibiting a certain person to begin a certain installation under certain circumstances; requiring a certain person to notify a certain customer-generator of a certain decision; requiring a certain person to refund a certain payment under certain circumstances; requiring an electric company, on request of a certain person, to provide certain information regarding the ability of the distribution system to accept a new interconnection process a certain application and notify the person of a certain decision in accordance with a certain process and time frame specified in certain regulations; and generally relating to a new interconnection agreement for the installation of a solar electric generating facility.

BY adding to

Article – Public Utilities

Section 7-306.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities

7-306.1.

(A) A PERSON WHO IS NEGOTIATING A CONTRACT WITH ~~A CUSTOMER~~ AN ELIGIBLE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR TO INSTALL ~~AND OPERATE~~ A SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY ON THE ~~CUSTOMER'S~~ CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S PROPERTY ~~FOR~~ THAT THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR OWNS AND OPERATES, LEASES AND OPERATES, OR CONTRACTS WITH A THIRD PARTY THAT OWNS AND OPERATES AND THAT REQUIRES INTERCONNECTION WITH AN ELECTRIC COMPANY'S TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES SHALL:

(1) ~~CONTACT THE CUSTOMER'S ELECTRIC COMPANY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE ELECTRIC COMPANY IS ACCEPTING NEW INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS IN THE CUSTOMER'S PROPERTY AREA; AND SHALL SUBMIT TO THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S ELECTRIC COMPANY A COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR INTERCONNECTION OF THE SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY WITH THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES;~~

(2) BEFORE RECEIVING THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

(I) MAY ACCEPT PAYMENT FROM THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTRACT; BUT

(II) MAY NOT BEGIN INSTALLATION OF THE SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY ON THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S PROPERTY;

~~(2)~~ (3) SHALL NOTIFY THE ~~CUSTOMER~~ CUSTOMER-GENERATOR OF THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S ~~ABILITY TO ACCEPT NEW INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS IN THE CUSTOMER'S PROPERTY AREA BEFORE THE CONTRACT IS EXECUTED~~ APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

(4) IF THE ELECTRIC COMPANY DISAPPROVES THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, SHALL FULLY REFUND ANY PAYMENT FROM THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) ON REQUEST OF A PERSON UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL ~~PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE ABILITY OF A SPECIFIC LOCATION ON THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO ACCEPT A NEW INTERCONNECTION~~ PROCESS AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION AND NOTIFY THE PERSON WHETHER THE APPLICATION IS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROCESS AND TIME FRAME SPECIFIED IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.