

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE, No. 2848

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably a Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2848.

This committee substitute amends current law concerning remote net metering.

Section 6 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.12) directed the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to establish an application and approval process to certify public entities to act as a host customer for remote net metering generating capacity. The BPU established a remote meter metering program by board order dated September 17, 2018.

Under the bill, a public entity certified to act as a host customer may individually, or collectively with one or more other public entities, host a solar energy project with a capacity up to 10 megawatts, as measured in direct current, to accommodate the total usage of the electric public utility accounts for the host public entity customer. The solar energy project would be required to:

(1) be located on land owned, licensed, or leased by any public entity or on any suitable private property within the electric public utility's service territory, including, but not limited to, rooftops of commercial buildings, parking lots, brownfields for which a final remediation document has been issued, or properly closed sanitary landfill facilities; and

(2) have a facility size calculated based upon the total aggregate electricity usage of the receiving public entity customer utility accounts to be served by the project, based on the total usage of each proposed customer account over the previous twelve months.

The bill would delete the provisions in current law that:

(1) allow a public entity certified to act as a host customer to allocate credits to other public entities within the same utility service territory;

(2) require the owner of a solar energy project to pay a certified public entity a pro-rated public sponsor fee of \$10,000 per megawatt, up to a 10-megawatt allowance for each public entity; and

(3) require each participating customer to pay at least 50 percent of the societal benefits charge established pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-60).

Lastly, the bill provides that an electric distribution company that serves the location of a solar energy project approved pursuant to the bill is responsible for reviewing and approving the interconnection of the remote net metering solar energy project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.