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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - STATEWIDE INTERCONNECTION
STANDARDS

Introduced By: Senators Walaska, Bates, Sosnowski, Miller, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 23, 2011

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 39 of the General Laws entitled "PUBLIC UTILITIES AND
2 CARRIERS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 29

4 STATEWIDE INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS

5 **39-29-1. Short title.** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Statewide
6 Interconnection Standards Act."

7 **39-29-2. Legislative findings.** – The purpose of this chapter is to establish statewide
8 interconnection standards for small generator facilities in order to facilitate the development of
9 distributed renewable energy in Rhode Island.

10 **39-29-3. Definitions.** – When used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the
11 following meanings:

12 (1) "Commission" means the Rhode Island public utilities commission;

13 (2) "Electric distribution company" means a company as defined in subsection 39-1-
14 2(12), supplying standard offer service, last resort service, or any successor service to end-use
15 customers, but not including, the Block Island power company or the Pascoag utility district;

16 (3) "Statewide interconnection standards" means the standardized procedures governing
17 the process whereby a small generator facility is connected to an electric power system owned,
18 controlled or operated by an electric distribution company;

1 (4) "Small Generator Facility" means an electricity-generating facility located in Rhode
2 Island with a capacity not exceeding forty (40) megawatts.

3 **39-29-4. Statewide interconnection standards.** – The commission shall review and
4 make a determination regarding the establishment of statewide interconnection standards. In
5 making its determination, the commission shall consider relevant federal laws and rules as well as
6 interconnection standards that have been developed by states and other appropriate entities. The
7 commission shall issue a public report by September 15, 2011 containing its findings and making
8 a determination regarding the advisability of establishing statewide interconnection standards. If
9 the commission determines that statewide interconnection standards should be established, the
10 commission shall proceed to develop such standards. In any development of interconnection
11 standards pursuant to this section, the commission may establish different standards for different
12 tiers of facilities based on generating capacity and may develop any necessary interconnection
13 agreements and related forms as appropriate.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - STATEWIDE INTERCONNECTION
STANDARDS

- 1 This act would require the establishment of statewide interconnection standards for small
- 2 generator facilities to help the development of distributed renewable energy.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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