

2022 -- S 2691

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- 2022 ENERGY STORAGE ACT

Introduced By: Senators Euer, DiPalma, Burke, Murray, Seveney, Miller, Coyne,  
Kallman, Ruggerio, and Quezada

Date Introduced: March 17, 2022

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 33

4 2022 ENERGY STORAGE ACT

5 **39-33-1. Energy storage target.**

6 It shall be the policy of the State of Rhode Island to meet the following energy storage  
7 deployment goals:

8 (1) One hundred fifty megawatts (150 MW) by December 31, 2026; and

9 (2) Five hundred megawatts (500 MW) by December 31, 2032.

10 **39-33-2. Energy storage compensation program.**

11 (a) On or before July 1, 2023, the office of energy resources shall initiate a process to  
12 develop one or more programs, and associated funding mechanisms, for electric energy storage  
13 resources connected to the electric distribution system, including the incorporation of electric  
14 energy storage into existing programs. The office of energy resources shall develop:

15 (1) One or more programs for the residential class of electric customers;

16 (2) One or more programs for commercial and industrial classes of electric customers; and

17 (3) A program for energy storage systems connected to the distribution system in front of  
18 the meter and not located at a customer premises.

19 (b) In undertaking the actions described in subsection (a) of this section, the office shall

1 consider one or more programs to incentivize the deployment of energy storage technologies  
2 connected to the electric distribution system that most effectively leverage the value of such  
3 technologies to achieve objectives including, but not limited to:

4 (1) Providing positive net present value to all ratepayers, or a subset of ratepayers paying  
5 for the benefits that accrue to that subset of ratepayers;

6 (2) Providing multiple types of benefits to the electric grid, including, but not limited to,  
7 customer, local, or community resilience, ancillary services, leveling out peaks in electricity use or  
8 that support the deployment of other distributed energy resources;

9 (3) Fostering the sustained, orderly development of a state-based energy storage industry;  
10 and

11 (4) Maximizing the value from the participation of energy storage systems in capacity  
12 markets. The office of energy resources shall include consideration of all energy storage  
13 configurations that are connected to the distribution system, including systems connected in front  
14 of the meter and not located at a customer premises.

15 (c) The office of energy resources may select the electric distribution company, a third  
16 party it deems appropriate, or any combination thereof, to implement one or more programs for  
17 electric energy storage resources connected to the electric distribution system.

18 (d) The office of energy resources shall file the proposed program with the public utilities  
19 commission for review and supervision. The public utilities commission shall issue a final decision  
20 on the proposed program within one hundred twenty (120) days of the filing by the office of energy  
21 resources.

22 **39-33-3. Energy storage rate design.**

23 (a) The electric distribution company shall complete and file with the public utilities  
24 commission a cost-of-service study for energy storage systems connected to the distribution system  
25 in front of the meter not later than March 31, 2023. On or before July 31, 2023, the electric  
26 distribution company shall file with the public utilities commission electric rate tariffs to apply to  
27 energy storage systems interconnected and providing retail service to their distribution system. The  
28 filing shall include at least one rate tariff that is applicable to front of the meter energy storage. The  
29 tariff shall not include costs that are otherwise recouped via project sponsor-funded interconnection  
30 upgrades or otherwise paid directly by the project sponsor, and shall include rates designed to  
31 reflect cost causation and ensure that energy storage systems are incentivized to charge and  
32 discharge at times that benefit the system.

33 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-26.1 of the General Laws entitled "Long-Term Contracting  
34 Standard for Renewable Energy" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

1           **39-26.1-10. Energy storage procurement.**

2           (a) The electric distribution company shall issue and, subject to review and approval of the  
3 commission, select a reasonable, open, and competitive method of soliciting proposals from third  
4 parties for energy storage projects connected to the transmission or distribution system in front of  
5 the meter, including, but not limited to, long-duration energy storage projects, that would achieve  
6 the goals in chapter 33 of title 39.

7           (b) The solicitation method shall be informed by a request for information on potential  
8 contract structures between electric distribution companies and third-party operators of energy  
9 storage projects, and products or services that may be procured.

10          (c) The solicitation process shall permit a reasonable amount of negotiating discretion for  
11 the parties to engage in arms-length negotiations over final contract terms.

12          (d) Each contract entered into pursuant to this section shall contain a condition that it shall  
13 not be effective without commission review and approval.

14          (e) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be subject to review and  
15 approval by the public utilities commission, which review shall be completed not later than one  
16 hundred twenty (120) days after the date on which such agreement is filed with the authority. The  
17 commission shall approve any such agreement if it determines that:

18           (1) The contract is commercially reasonable as defined in § 39-31-3;

19           (2) The requirements for the solicitation have been met;

20           (3) The contract is consistent with the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets; and

21           (4) The contract is consistent with the purposes of this chapter and contributes to the  
22 achievement of the energy storage goals established in § 39-33-1.

23          (f) The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution  
24 companies under the agreement and reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution  
25 companies in connection with the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully reconciling  
26 component of electric rates for all customers of electric distribution companies. Any net revenues  
27 from the sale of products purchased in accordance with long-term contracts entered into pursuant  
28 to this section shall be credited to customers through the same fully reconciling rate component for  
29 all customers of the contracting electric distribution company.

30          SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would require the office of energy resources to initiate the process of developing  
2 one or more programs, and associated funding mechanisms, for electric energy storage resources  
3 connected to the electric distribution system, including the incorporation of electric energy storage  
4 into existing programs.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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