

1 H.721

2 Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Briglin of Thetford,

3 Christie of Hartford, and Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Energy; public service; renewable generation; solar; net metering

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
8 the Public Utility Commission reduce the regulatory burden on applications for
9 solar net metering systems of 150 kilowatts or less that are approved by the
10 municipality and the regional planning commission and that do not affect
11 protected natural resources.

12 An act relating to the regulatory burden on solar net metering systems of
13 150 kilowatts or less

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8010(c)(3) is amended to read:

16 (3) The rules shall establish standards and procedures governing
17 application for and issuance or revocation of a certificate of public good for net
18 metering systems under the provisions of section 248 of this title. In
19 establishing these standards and procedures:

1 (A) The rules may waive the requirements of section 248 of this title
2 that are not applicable to net metering systems, including criteria that are
3 generally applicable to public service companies as defined in this title.

4 (B) The rules may modify notice and hearing requirements of this
5 title as the Commission considers appropriate.

6 (C) The rules shall seek to simplify the application and review
7 process as appropriate, including simplifying the application and review
8 process to ~~encourage~~:

9 (i) Encourage group net metering systems when the system is at
10 least 50 percent owned by the customers who receive the bill credits for the
11 electricity generated by the system.

12 (ii) Reduce the cost and effort involved in applying for approval of
13 a solar net metering system of 150 kW or less in plant capacity if the system
14 has received the approval of the municipal selectboard and planning
15 commission and the regional planning commission and does not have an
16 impact on any important natural resources as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2791. The
17 resulting cost and effort in applying for approval of such a net metering system
18 shall be no greater than the cost and effort for approval of the same system that
19 would have resulted under the net metering rules in effect as of December 31,
20 2016.

21 * * *

1 (E) The rules shall not waive or include provisions that are less
2 stringent than the requirements of subdivision 248(a)(4)(J) (required
3 information) of this title.

4 (F) This subdivision (F) applies to an application for a net metering
5 system with a capacity that is greater than 15 kilowatts, unless the system is
6 located on a new or existing structure the primary purpose of which is not the
7 generation of electricity or is a solar net metering system described in
8 subdivision (C)(ii) of this subdivision (3). ~~With respect to such a system, the~~
9 The rules shall not waive or include provisions that are less stringent than each
10 of the following:

11 (i) the requirement of subdivision 248(a)(4)(C) of this title to
12 provide a copy of the application to the Agencies of Agriculture, Food and
13 Markets and of Natural Resources; the Department of Public Service; the
14 Division for Historic Preservation; the municipal legislative body; and the
15 municipal and regional planning commissions; and

16 (ii) the requirements of subsection 248(f) (preapplication
17 submittal) of this title.

18 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE; IMPLEMENTATION

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018. On or before September 15, 2018,
20 the Public Utility Commission shall file with the Secretary of State proposed
21 rule amendments to implement Sec. 1.