

1 S.195

2 Introduced by Senator Ayer

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Energy; natural resources; land use; large buildings; solar generation;
6 study

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
8 committee to examine and make recommendations on requiring large buildings
9 that are heated or cooled to install solar electric generation.

10 An act relating to a study on whether to require large buildings to install
11 solar generation

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

13 Sec. 1. LARGE BUILDINGS; SOLAR GENERATION; STUDY

14 COMMITTEE; REPORT

15 (a) Creation. There is created a study committee, to be known as the Study
16 Committee on Solar at Large Buildings (the Committee), on whether to require
17 large buildings to install solar electric generation. As used in this section,
18 “large building” means an enclosed structure that has a roof and walls and a
19 floor space that measures at least 4,000 square feet and whose operation

1 includes one or more of the following: consumption of electricity, heating
2 space, or heating water.

3 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following nine
4 members:

5 (1) a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker
6 of the House;

7 (2) a member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee
8 on Committees;

9 (3) the Commissioner of Public Service or designee;

10 (4) the Chair of the Natural Resources Board or designee;

11 (5) a person in the business of developing large buildings for
12 commercial purposes, appointed by the Governor;

13 (6) a person in the business of making devices that capture the energy of
14 the sun and convert it into electricity or heat, appointed by Renewable Energy
15 Vermont;

16 (7) a person employed by a Vermont electric distribution utility with
17 expertise in the installation of solar electric generation and related transmission
18 and distribution issues, appointed by the Governor;

19 (8) a representative of the Vermont Association of Planning and
20 Development Agencies, appointed by the Association; and

1 (9) a Vermont resident with expertise on environmental and energy
2 issues by joint appointment of the Vermont Natural Resources Council and the
3 Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

4 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study whether to require the
5 installation of solar electric generation on or at large buildings and, if so, under
6 what conditions and through what process or program. This study shall include
7 consideration of each of the following:

8 (1) The public benefits and costs of adopting such a requirement,
9 including environmental and land use impacts, effects on the Vermont utility
10 grid, and economic impacts.

11 (2) If such a requirement were to be adopted:

12 (A) Notwithstanding the definition of large building in this section,
13 the appropriate building size to which the requirement should be applied.

14 (B) The establishment of an amount of energy consumption at a large
15 building below which the requirement would not apply and, if so, what that
16 amount should be.

17 (C) The amount of solar generation that should be required to be
18 installed on or at a large building and the method for determining that amount.

19 (D) The use of a cost-effectiveness test in determining whether to
20 impose such a requirement on a particular large building or how much solar

1 generation should be required and the method to be used in performing that
2 test.

3 (E) The on-site placement of the solar generation, including whether
4 the requirement should be limited to roofs or other impervious surfaces or
5 should allow ground-mounted installation.

6 (F) The role, if any, that existing transmission or distribution supply
7 constraints on the utility grid should play in imposing such a requirement on a
8 particular large building.

9 (G) The use of offsets to satisfy all or part of such a requirement,
10 including whether to allow such use and under what conditions. In this
11 subdivision (G), the term “offset” refers to the off-site installation of solar
12 electric generation.

13 (H) The provision of incentives by the State to promote compliance
14 with such a requirement and, if so, what incentives should be provided.

15 (I) Imposing the requirement only on new large buildings or also on
16 existing large buildings and, if existing large buildings are included, under
17 what circumstances, such as expansion or modification.

18 (J) The appropriate agency or agencies to administer and oversee
19 compliance with such a requirement.

20 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
21 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal

1 Office. On request, the Committee shall be entitled to the assistance of the
2 Agencies of Commerce and Community Development and of Natural
3 Resources, the Departments of Public Service and of Taxes, the Natural
4 Resources Board, the Public Service Board, the regional planning
5 commissions, and each Vermont retail electricity provider as defined in
6 30 V.S.A. § 8002.

7 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2017, the Committee shall submit a
8 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and
9 Energy, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and
10 the Senate Committee on Finance with its findings and any recommendations
11 for legislative action in the form of proposed legislation.

12 (f) Meetings.

13 (1) The Office of Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of the
14 Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2016.

15 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its legislative
16 members at the first meeting.

17 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

18 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on February 1, 2017.

19 (g) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the
20 General Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to

1 per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A.

2 § 406 for no more than four meetings.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.