

2022 -- S 3063

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LC006197  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO  
UNDERTAKE A DOCKET TO REVIEW, ANALYZE, AND PROVIDE A REPORT ON  
SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, and Euer

Date Introduced: June 23, 2022

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is on a path to achieving a 100 percent renewable energy by  
2 2033 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050; and

3 WHEREAS, By achieving a clean energy future, the State's carbon emission footprint  
4 and dependency on fossil fuel will be addressed; and

5 WHEREAS, Renewable energy will provide residents of the State with healthier  
6 environments and improved quality of life; and

7 WHEREAS, The State's energy sector continues to grow and evolve with new  
8 technological advancements that require updating of existing solar programs; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby respectfully requests  
10 the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to undertake a docket to review and analyze  
11 solar energy development in Rhode Island. The review and analysis shall include, but not limited  
12 to:

13 1) Comparing and contrasting the various solar energy development programs offered  
14 through the electric distribution company's tariffs, excluding Block Island Utility District and  
15 Pascoag Utility District; and

16 2) Performing a cost-benefit analysis of investment in a range of solar project types and  
17 conducting an analysis of the different allocation of costs and benefits to participants and non-  
18 participants caused by increased investment in the project types from the programs offered  
19 through the electric distribution company's tariffs; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, This Senate requests that in addition to direct cost and benefits, the PUC  
2 factors into consideration: environmental justice, electric service reliability, affordable consumer  
3 rates, incentives for projects, interconnection cost and historic net metering rates, programmatic  
4 rules and cost differences, addressing the developers' need for a reliable source of revenue which  
5 provides a reasonable foundation for financing their projects against the need to assure that  
6 ratepayers are not paying more than necessary to achieve the targets set in the Renewable Energy  
7 Standard, and electric load growth scenarios to address targets of the Act on Climate greenhouse  
8 gas emission reductions; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That this Senate further requests that for each type of solar energy  
10 development program, the PUC shall analyze whether expansion of each program encourages  
11 investment in solar projects, where benefits exceed cost, and whether sustainability and stability  
12 of each program can be maintained without unreasonable burden to ratepayers; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That this Senate also requests that the PUC conducts public meetings to  
14 ensure meaningful public engagement and allows for a minimum of thirty (30) days for public  
15 comment; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That this Senate requests a report on review and analysis that shall make  
17 reasoned recommendations of which solar energy development program or programs,  
18 combination of programs, or new programs are or are not the most reasonable and effective  
19 means of procuring the best value for solar resources at the overall best rate to Rhode Island  
20 ratepayers through 2030; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby further requests that the PUC report its findings  
22 and recommendations to the Senate on or before December 1, 2023; and be it further

23           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the Public Utilities  
25 Commission.

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