



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5340

LCO No. 2138



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE POWER GENERATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section
2 and sections 2 and 3 of this act:

3 (1) "Authority" means the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;

4 (2) "Class I renewable energy source" has the same meaning as
5 provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

6 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Energy and
7 Environmental Protection;

8 (4) "Distributed energy resource" has the same meaning as provided
9 in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

10 (5) "Dwelling unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 47a-
11 1 of the general statutes;

12 (6) "Energy storage system" has the same meaning as provided in
13 section 16-1 of the general statutes;

14 (7) "Shared clean energy facility" means a Class I renewable energy
15 source that (A) emits no pollutants, (B) is served by an electric
16 distribution company, (C) has a nameplate capacity rating of five
17 megawatts or less, and (D) has at least two subscribers;

18 (8) "Residential customer" means a customer that resides in a single-
19 family home, a multifamily dwelling consisting of two to four dwelling
20 units or a multifamily dwelling consisting of five or more dwelling
21 units, provided in the case of a multifamily dwelling consisting of five
22 or more such units, (A) not less than sixty per cent of the units of the
23 multifamily dwelling are occupied by persons and families with income
24 that is not more than sixty per cent of the area median income for the
25 municipality in which it is located, as determined by the United States
26 Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (B) such
27 multifamily dwelling is determined to be affordable housing by the
28 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority according to any alternative
29 metrics designated by the authority;

30 (9) "Low-income customer" means a retail end user of an electric
31 distribution company (A) who resides in the state, (B) whose income
32 does not exceed sixty per cent of the state median income, adjusted for
33 family size, or (C) who resides in an affordable housing development,
34 provided the authority may modify the definition of "low-income
35 customer" for the sole purpose of aligning such definition with the
36 requirements of any federal program that provides renewable energy
37 incentives;

38 (10) "Affordable housing" has the same meaning as provided in
39 section 8-39a of the general statutes; and

40 (11) "Environmental justice community" has the same meaning as
41 provided in subsection (a) of section 22a-20a of the general statutes.

42 (b) On or before July 1, 2027, the authority shall initiate a proceeding
43 to establish a successor program to the Residential Renewable Energy
44 Solutions program established by the authority pursuant to section 16-

45 244z of the general statutes. In establishing such successor program, the
46 authority shall establish (1) tariffs for each electric distribution
47 company, (2) a rate for such tariffs, (3) the period of time that will be
48 used for calculating the net amount of energy produced by a distributed
49 energy resource and not consumed, and (4) tariff terms and conditions
50 consistent with the requirements of this section. In such proceeding, the
51 authority shall consider the findings of the study of the value of
52 distributed energy resources conducted pursuant to section 16a-3o of
53 the general statutes and the impact of distributed energy resources on
54 the state's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to section
55 22a-200a of the general statutes. The authority shall issue a final order
56 in such proceeding on or before April 1, 2028.

57 (c) In establishing rates for tariffs pursuant to subdivision (2) of
58 subsection (b) of this section, the authority shall consider the average
59 cost of installation of a distributed energy resource, costs and benefits to
60 program participants and nonparticipating ratepayers, the
61 Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d of
62 the general statutes and the value or benefits of distributed energy
63 resources to the reliability of the electric grid in the state. In establishing
64 a period of time used for calculating net energy produced and not
65 consumed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section,
66 the authority shall assess whether to incorporate time-varying rates or
67 other dynamic pricing methods, and such period of time shall be in (1)
68 real time, (2) one day, (3) any fraction of a day not to exceed one day, or
69 (4) any period of time greater than one day, up to and including one
70 month.

71 (d) On and after July 1, 2028, pursuant to the program established
72 under this section, each electric distribution company shall offer, for the
73 purchase of energy products generated from a distributed energy
74 resource that emits no pollutants, that is located on a customer's
75 premises and that has a nameplate capacity rating of twenty-five
76 kilowatts or less, for a term not to exceed twenty years: (1) For
77 residential customers, a tariff for the purchase of any energy produced

78 and not consumed in the period of time established by the authority
79 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any renewable energy
80 certificates generated by such energy resource, on a cents-per-kilowatt-
81 hour basis, or (2) for low-income customers or customers that reside in
82 a multifamily dwelling that is affordable housing, (A) a tariff for the
83 purchase of all energy and renewable energy certificates on a cents-per-
84 kilowatt-hour basis; and (B) a tariff for the purchase of any energy
85 produced and not consumed in the period of time established by the
86 authority pursuant to this section and any renewable energy certificates
87 generated by such renewable energy resource, on a cents-per-kilowatt-
88 hour basis, subject to any tariff terms, conditions or other stipulations of
89 the authority, including, but not limited to, stipulations regarding the
90 capacity rights of the distributed energy resource. A low-income
91 customer or a customer who resides in a multifamily dwelling that is
92 affordable housing shall select one tariff option authorized pursuant to
93 subdivision (2) of this subsection. To be eligible for program
94 participation, a distributed energy resource shall be designed to not
95 exceed the load at the customer's individual electric meter or, in the case
96 of a multifamily dwelling that qualifies under this subsection, the load
97 of the premises, from the electric distribution company providing
98 service to such customer, pursuant to any rules established by the
99 authority and as determined by such electric distribution company. For
100 purposes of this subsection, in the case of a multifamily dwelling
101 consisting of five or more units, a distributed energy resource shall only
102 qualify for participation in the program if each of the dwelling units
103 receives an appropriate share of the benefits from such energy resource
104 and no greater than an appropriate share of the benefits from such
105 energy resource is used to offset any common area usage. The Public
106 Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate an uncontested proceeding
107 to implement any distribution of the benefits from the distributed
108 energy resource necessary pursuant to this subsection.

109 (e) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric
110 distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a

111 timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
112 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any
113 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
114 any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
115 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
116 such electric distribution company.

117 (f) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
118 shall examine how to incorporate the following into the rate established
119 for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for energy storage systems that provide
120 electric distribution benefits, (2) incentives concerning the location of a
121 distributed energy source on the electric distribution system in a
122 manner that improves the reliability of such system, and (3) other
123 energy policy benefits identified in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy
124 prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes.

125 (g) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
126 tariffs developed pursuant to this section until July 1, 2036.

127 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) On or before July 1, 2027,
128 the authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish a successor program
129 to the Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program
130 established pursuant to section 16-244z of the general statutes. In
131 establishing such successor program, the authority shall establish (1)
132 tariffs for each electric distribution company, (2) a rate for such tariffs,
133 (3) the period of time that will be used for calculating the net amount of
134 energy produced by a distributed energy resource and not consumed,
135 and (4) tariff terms and conditions consistent with the requirements of
136 this section. In such proceeding, the authority shall consider the findings
137 of the study of the value of distributed energy resources conducted
138 pursuant to section 16a-3o of the general statutes and the impact of Class
139 I renewable energy sources on the state's goals to reduce greenhouse gas
140 emissions pursuant to section 22a-200a of the general statutes. The
141 authority shall issue a final order in such proceeding on or before April
142 1, 2028.

143 (b) In establishing rates for tariffs pursuant to subdivision (2) of
144 subsection (a) of this section, the authority shall consider the average
145 cost of installation of a distributed energy resource, costs and benefits to
146 program participants and nonparticipating ratepayers, the
147 Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d of
148 the general statutes and the value or benefits of distributed energy
149 resources to the reliability of the electric grid in the state. In establishing
150 a period of time used for calculating net energy produced and not
151 consumed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section,
152 the authority shall assess whether to incorporate time-varying rates or
153 other dynamic pricing methods, and such period of time shall be in (1)
154 real time, (2) one day, (3) any fraction of a day not to exceed one day, or
155 (4) any period of time greater than one day, up to and including one
156 month. Tariffs implemented pursuant to this section shall be for terms
157 of twenty years.

158 (c) The authority shall develop and implement an application process
159 for any person who seeks to utilize a tariff pursuant to this section. For
160 any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority shall
161 establish program eligibility criteria for distributed energy resources,
162 including, but not limited to, whether an applicant has (1) a lawful right
163 to control the site upon which such resource is or shall be located, (2)
164 secured any permit required in connection with the installation or
165 operation of such resource, and (3) secured any interconnection
166 agreement or approval required to connect such resource with the
167 electric grid.

168 (d) On and after July 1, 2028, pursuant to the program established
169 under this section, each electric distribution company shall offer a tariff,
170 for the purchase of any energy produced and not consumed in the
171 period of time established by the authority pursuant to this section, on
172 a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, and any renewable energy certificates,
173 generated from a distributed energy resource that emits no pollutants
174 that (1) is located on a customer's premises, (2) is less than five
175 megawatts in size, and (3) serves the distribution system of an electric

176 distribution company, subject to any tariff terms, conditions or other
177 stipulations of the authority, including, but not limited to, the capacity
178 rights of such source. To be eligible for program participation, a
179 distributed energy resource shall be designed to not exceed the load at
180 the customer's individual electric meter or a set of electric meters, when
181 such meters are combined for billing purposes, as determined by the
182 authority, unless such customer is a state, municipal or agricultural
183 customer. For any state, municipal or agricultural customer, the
184 distributed energy resource shall be designed to not exceed the load at
185 such customer's individual electric meter or a set of electric meters at the
186 same customer's premises, when such meters are combined for billing
187 purposes, and the load of up to five state, municipal or agricultural
188 beneficial accounts, as defined in section 16-244u of the general statutes,
189 identified by such state, municipal or agricultural customer, and such
190 state, municipal or agricultural customer may include the load of up to
191 five additional nonstate or municipal beneficial accounts, as defined in
192 section 16-244u of the general statutes, when sizing such energy
193 resource, provided such accounts are critical facilities, as defined in
194 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-243y of the general
195 statutes, and are connected to a microgrid.

196 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section,
197 state, municipal and agricultural customers shall be exempt from the
198 requirement that generation projects, including colocated energy
199 storage facilities connected with such projects, be located on a
200 customer's premises.

201 (f) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
202 shall examine how to incorporate the following into the rate established
203 for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for energy storage systems that provide
204 electric distribution benefits, (2) incentives concerning the location of a
205 distributed energy source on the electric distribution system in a
206 manner that improves the reliability of such system, (3) preference for
207 the development of distributed energy projects in distressed
208 municipalities, as defined in section 32-9p of the general statutes, and

209 on properties designated as brownfields, as defined in section 32-760 of
210 the general statutes, (4) incentives for the development of solar canopy
211 projects, and (5) other energy policy benefits identified in the
212 Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d of
213 the general statutes.

214 (g) The authority shall follow the procedures established pursuant to
215 subsection (g) of section 16-245a of the general statutes for certificates
216 issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System
217 for any Class I renewable energy source purchased by an electric
218 distribution company pursuant to this section.

219 (h) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric
220 distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a
221 timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
222 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any
223 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
224 any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
225 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
226 such electric distribution company.

227 (i) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the total
228 aggregate procurement of energy products by electric distribution
229 companies pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be not more
230 than twenty-five million dollars per year, provided any money not
231 allocated in any given year may roll into the next year's available funds.
232 The authority shall monitor the effectiveness of any procurements
233 authorized pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and may adjust the
234 annual purchase amount established in this subsection or other
235 procurement parameters to maintain program effectiveness.

236 (j) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
237 tariffs developed pursuant to this section until July 1, 2036. The
238 authority shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-per-
239 kilowatt-hour basis at the expiration of any tariff terms authorized

240 pursuant to this section.

241 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) On or before July 1, 2027,
242 the authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish a successor program
243 to the shared clean energy facility program established pursuant to
244 section 16-244z of the general statutes. In establishing such successor
245 program, the authority shall establish a tariff including (1) a price cap
246 on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis concerning any shared clean energy
247 facility, or (2) rates for eligible customers based on policy goals
248 identified in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to
249 section 16a-3d of the general statutes, which may include time-varying
250 rates or other dynamic pricing methods, and such period of time shall
251 be in (A) real time, (B) one day, (C) any fraction of a day not to exceed
252 one day, or (D) any period of time greater than one day, up to and
253 including one month. The authority may specify additional tariff terms
254 and conditions to carry out the requirements of this section. The
255 authority shall issue a final order in such proceeding on or before April
256 1, 2028.

257 (b) The successor program requirements shall include, but not be
258 limited to, the following:

259 (1) The authority shall allow cost-effective shared clean energy
260 facility projects of various nameplate capacities, and may allow for the
261 construction of multiple such projects in the service area of each electric
262 distribution company that operates within the state.

263 (2) The authority shall determine the billing credit for any subscriber
264 of a shared clean energy facility that may be issued through the electric
265 distribution companies' monthly billing systems and establish
266 consumer protections for subscribers and potential subscribers of such
267 a facility, including, but not limited to, disclosures to be made when
268 selling or reselling a subscription.

269 (3) Such program shall utilize one or more tariff mechanisms with the
270 electric distribution companies for a term not to exceed twenty years,

271 subject to approval by the authority, to pay for the purchase of any
272 energy products and renewable energy certificates produced by any
273 eligible shared clean energy facility, or to deliver any billing credit of
274 any such facility.

275 (4) The authority may limit subscribers of a shared clean energy
276 facility to low-income customers or residential customers located in an
277 environmental justice community, and may give priority in program
278 participation to any low-income customer who has an arrearage with
279 such customer's electric distribution company. The authority may create
280 incentives or other financing mechanisms to encourage participation by
281 low-income customers.

282 (5) The authority may require that, for any shared clean energy
283 facility not restricted to low-income customers or residential customers
284 located in an environmental justice community, not more than forty per
285 cent of the total capacity of each shared clean energy facility is sold to
286 commercial customers.

287 (6) The authority shall require that each electric distribution company
288 submit a plan for the authority's approval concerning the enrollment of
289 subscribers to any shared clean energy facility in tariffs offered by the
290 electric distribution company. Such plans may include provisions for
291 automatically enrolling certain customers and opt-out provisions for
292 any such customers.

293 (c) On and after July 1, 2028, pursuant to the program established
294 under this section, each electric distribution company shall offer a tariff
295 for subscribers of a shared clean energy facility consistent with the
296 program requirements adopted by the authority pursuant to this
297 section.

298 (d) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
299 shall examine how to incorporate the following into the rate established
300 for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for energy storage systems that provide
301 electric distribution benefits, (2) incentives concerning the location of a

302 distributed energy source on the electric distribution system in a
303 manner that improves the reliability of such system, (3) preference for
304 the development of distributed energy projects in distressed
305 municipalities, as defined in section 32-9p of the general statutes, and
306 on properties designated as brownfields, as defined in section 32-760 of
307 the general statutes, (4) incentives for the development of solar canopy
308 projects, and (5) other energy policy benefits identified in the
309 Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d of
310 the general statutes.

311 (e) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric
312 distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a
313 timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
314 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any
315 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
316 any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
317 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
318 such electric distribution company.

319 (f) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the total
320 aggregate procurement of energy products by electric distribution
321 companies pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be not more
322 than sixteen million dollars per year, provided any money not allocated
323 in any given year may roll into the next year's available funds. The
324 authority shall monitor the effectiveness of any procurements
325 authorized pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and may adjust the
326 annual purchase amount established in this subsection or other
327 procurement parameters to maintain program effectiveness.

328 (g) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
329 tariffs developed pursuant to this section until July 1, 2036. The
330 authority shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-per-
331 kilowatt-hour basis at the expiration of any tariff terms authorized
332 pursuant to this section.

333 Sec. 4. Section 7 of public act 24-38 is repealed and the following is
334 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

335 (a) There is established a task force to examine and make
336 recommendations concerning policy, regulations and legislation to
337 improve disclosure requirements and consumer protection for
338 consumers who purchase, lease or enter into power purchase
339 agreements for solar photovoltaic systems. Such study shall include, but
340 need not be limited to, an examination of (1) licensing requirements for
341 contractors who engage in solar electricity work, as defined in section
342 20-330 of the general statutes, (2) whether special protections are
343 necessary for consumers who are low-income or senior citizens, and (3)
344 requirements concerning audits or other methods of ensuring such
345 contractors or persons engaged in the sale or lease of such systems
346 comply with applicable state laws and regulations.

347 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

348 (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
349 the commissioner's designee;

350 (2) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or
351 the chairperson's designee;

352 (3) The Consumer Counsel, or the [Consumer Counsel's] counsel's
353 designee;

354 (4) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's
355 designee;

356 (5) The president of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the president's
357 designee;

358 (6) Two appointed by the Governor, who shall be members of an
359 association that represents retailers of solar photovoltaic systems in the
360 state or retailers of solar photovoltaic systems in the state;

361 (7) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
362 one of whom shall have experience representing senior citizens in
363 matters related to consumer protection or utilities;

364 (8) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
365 whom shall have experience representing consumer groups, especially
366 in underserved communities;

367 (9) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
368 Representatives;

369 (10) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

370 (11) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
371 Representatives; and

372 (12) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

373 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
374 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
375 be filled by the appointing authority.

376 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
377 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force
378 from among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall
379 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
380 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

381 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
382 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
383 technology shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

384 (f) Not later than [January 1, 2025] February 1, 2027, the task force
385 shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint
386 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
387 matters relating to energy and technology and general law, in
388 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

389 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or
390 [January 1, 2025] February 1, 2027, whichever is later.

391 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
392 "portable solar generation device" means a solar photovoltaic
393 generation device that (1) is not permanently affixed to a structure, (2)
394 has a maximum power output of not more than one thousand two
395 hundred watts, (3) is designed to be connected to a building's electrical
396 system through a standard one hundred twenty volt alternating current
397 outlet located behind a customer's electric meter, (4) is intended
398 primarily to offset part of the customer's electricity consumption, (5)
399 meets the requirements of the State Building Code, (6) is certified by
400 Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized
401 testing laboratory, and (7) includes a device or feature that prevents the
402 system from energizing the building's electrical system during a power
403 outage.

404 (b) A portable solar generation device that meets the requirements of
405 this section shall be exempt from any requirement concerning
406 interconnection agreements imposed by any regulation adopted by the
407 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or any decision of the authority,
408 provided not more than one such device may be used behind a
409 customer's electric meter.

410 (c) No electric distribution company shall (1) require a customer
411 using a portable solar generation device to obtain the company's
412 approval before installing or using the system, pay any fee or charge
413 related to the system or install any additional controls or equipment
414 beyond what is integrated into the system, provided not more than one
415 such device may be used behind a customer's electric meter, or (2) be
416 liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation
417 device.

418 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

419 (1) "Agrivoltaics project" means a solar photovoltaic system with a

420 nameplate capacity exceeding one megawatt that is located on land in
421 actual use for farming or agricultural operations; and

422 (2) "Forest land" has the same meaning as provided in section 12-107b
423 of the general statutes.

424 (b) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Energy and
425 Environmental Protection shall develop and implement a program to
426 support the development of agrivoltaics projects in the state. The
427 commissioner shall prescribe a form and manner of application for any
428 person seeking to participate in the program. Such program shall
429 require, as conditions of approval, that:

430 (1) The applicant demonstrate that such project is to be located on
431 land that has not been cleared or otherwise converted from forest land
432 to another use in the five years preceding the application, provided this
433 provision may be waived if the commissioner, in consultation with the
434 Commissioner of Agriculture, determines that such clearing or
435 conversion and the development of an agrivoltaics project will have no
436 adverse environmental impact on the community in which such project
437 is to be located, and that such project will increase the reliability of the
438 electric grid in such community;

439 (2) The applicant provide a plan for stormwater management at the
440 site where such project is proposed to be located;

441 (3) The applicant submit a plan detailing the proposed agricultural
442 use for the land upon which the proposed agrivoltaics project is
443 proposed to be located;

444 (4) The applicant provide, at the commissioner's request, a soil
445 analysis concerning the site at which such project is to be located;

446 (5) The commissioner determine that, based on any such soil analysis
447 or the analysis of the agricultural plan, the agrivoltaics project will be
448 viable for both the generation of energy and productive agricultural use;

449 and

450 (6) The commissioner determine that the installation of the solar
451 photovoltaic components used in the agrivoltaics project will not result
452 in the (A) unnecessary removal of topsoil from the site, (B) excessive
453 excavation in connection with the installation of foundations for solar
454 photovoltaic panel support structures or trenches for electrical wiring,
455 (C) disturbance of any wetlands or watercourse, as defined in chapter
456 440 of the general statutes, or (D) unnecessary removal of vegetation
457 from the site.

458 (c) On or before March 1, 2027, the commissioner shall develop a tariff
459 proposal including rates for energy generated by an agrivoltaics project
460 and any other terms or conditions the commissioner deems necessary to
461 implement the provisions of this section to the Public Utilities
462 Regulatory Authority. The proposed tariff shall provide that the electric
463 distribution companies shall be entitled to recover all reasonable costs
464 and expenses prudently incurred for the implementation and operation
465 of the program through a reconciling component of electric rates, as
466 determined by the authority. The authority shall approve or modify
467 such tariff proposal submitted by the commissioner on or before May 1,
468 2027.

469 (d) On or before July 1, 2027, the electric distribution companies shall
470 submit to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for review and
471 approval: (1) Any tariffs proposed pursuant to this section applicable to
472 an agrivoltaics project; and (2) any proposal to recover costs associated
473 with administering the implementation and operation of the program
474 pursuant to this section.

475 (e) The owner or operator of any agrivoltaics project approved
476 pursuant to this section shall provide an annual report to the
477 commissioner, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner,
478 detailing agricultural yields, livestock grazing or other agricultural
479 activities in connection with such project.

480 (f) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
481 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, which establish
482 procedures and guidelines necessary to implement the provisions of this
483 section.

484 Sec. 7. (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

485 (1) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as
486 provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

487 (2) "Environmental justice community" has the same meaning as
488 provided in subsection (a) of section 22a-20a of the general statutes; and

489 (3) "Minority-owned business" has the same meaning as provided in
490 section 32-353 of the general statutes.

491 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall,
492 within available appropriations, and in consultation with the electric
493 distribution companies, establish a two-year pilot program to support
494 the installation of residential solar photovoltaic systems for residents of
495 environmental justice communities. The program shall be designed to
496 provide for the installation of such systems at low cost, or no cost, to one
497 hundred households located in any environmental justice community.
498 The commissioner may enter into an agreement with any contractor
499 licensed in the state pursuant to chapter 393 of the general statutes to
500 install such systems pursuant to the program, and may give priority in
501 the selection of any such contractor to a contractor that is a minority-
502 owned business.

503 (c) On or before December 1, 2028, the commissioner shall file a
504 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
505 statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
506 having cognizance of matters relating to energy and the environment
507 (1) analyzing the impact of the program, and (2) recommending whether
508 a permanent program should be established in this state and, if so, any
509 necessary legislation.

510 Sec. 8. Subsection (m) of section 16-245o of the general statutes is
 511 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 512 *1, 2026*):

513 (m) On and after January 1, 2024, customers of electric distribution
 514 companies who (1) are hardship cases for purposes of subdivision (3) of
 515 subsection (b) of section 16-262c, (2) have arrearages deducted from
 516 such customers' bills by the electric distribution company pursuant to
 517 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 16-262c, (3) receive other
 518 financial assistance from an electric distribution company, or (4) are
 519 otherwise protected by law from shutoff of electricity services, may
 520 enroll with an electric supplier, provided [all] any contract between a
 521 customer [contracts with] described in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive,
 522 of this subsection and an electric [suppliers] supplier, for rates effective
 523 on and after January 1, 2024, shall be at or below the standard service
 524 rate for the duration of [the contracts] any such contract. Any billing
 525 system costs incurred by an electric distribution company to comply
 526 with this section shall be recoverable from all licensed electric suppliers.
 527 The authority may initiate a docket to order all hardship customer
 528 contracts with electric suppliers, entered into on and after a determined
 529 date, to comply with appropriate limitations the authority deems
 530 necessary. If the authority issues such an order, it shall reopen such
 531 docket not less than every two years for the purpose of determining
 532 whether such order remains necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	PA 24-38, Sec. 7
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	16-245o(m)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to develop successor programs for the RRES, NRES and SCEF programs, (2) require a study of consumer protections for solar photovoltaic system leasing and sales, (3) allow the use of portable solar photovoltaic systems, (4) require the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to implement an agrivoltaics program, and (5) require the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to establish a pilot program concerning the installation of solar photovoltaic systems in environmental justice communities.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]