

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1127

S.P. 347

In Senate, March 7, 2019

An Act To Expand Community-based Solar Energy in Maine

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SANBORN, H. of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, LAWRENCE of York, WOODSOME of York, Representatives: RILEY of Jay, STROM of Pittsfield.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3210-C, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

3 **3-A. Long-term contracts for community-based solar resources.** The
4 commission shall direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to enter
5 into long-term contracts for community-based solar resources located within the service
6 territories of the utilities in accordance with this subsection. For the purposes of this
7 subsection, "community-based solar resource" means a new renewable capacity resource
8 located within the State that relies on solar photovoltaic arrays to generate electricity and
9 is community-based, as defined by the commission by rule.

10 A. The commission shall direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities
11 to procure up to 100 megawatts from community-based solar resources through long-
12 term contracts. The commission shall ensure that at least 20% of resources procured
13 under this subsection are procured through long-term contracts with community-
14 based solar resources with a nameplate capacity of less than 2 megawatts.

15 B. The commission shall, by rule, establish provisions to protect the interests of
16 customers of investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities over the term of
17 the contracts entered into pursuant to this subsection.

18 C. A community-based solar resource is eligible for long-term contracting under this
19 subsection if the community-based solar resource and its owners meet at least the
20 following requirements:

21 (1) The resource has a nameplate capacity of no more than 10 megawatts;

22 (2) The resource has an in-service date of no earlier than June 30, 2020 and no
23 later than December 31, 2021;

24 (3) Ownership of the resource is at least 75% accounted for by qualified owners.
25 For the purposes of this subparagraph, "qualified owner" means a resident of the
26 State or a business, corporation or other entity that is at least 75% owned by
27 residents of the State; and

28 (4) The owners of the resource provide documentation to the commission that:

29 (a) Demonstrates completion of an interconnection agreement application
30 with the local transmission and distribution utility;

31 (b) Includes a plan to obtain all required federal, state and local permits and
32 approvals for the resource;

33 (c) Demonstrates financial capability to operate the resource over the term of
34 the contract;

35 (d) Includes a letter or resolution of support from the local community in
36 which the resource is located; and

37 (e) Outlines expected economic benefits from the long-term contract to the
38 local community in which the resource is located.

1 associated with the resource, as determined by the owners. Finally, the bill specifies that
2 available energy contracted for under the provisions of this bill must be sold into the
3 wholesale electricity market in conjunction with solicitations for standard-offer supply
4 bids.