

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1232

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H.P. 780

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

### **An Act to Increase Adoption of Solar Power in Maine**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R(t) B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SKOLD of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BOYLE of Gorham, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport,  
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JAUCH of Topsham, RANA of Bangor, SAYRE of  
Kennebunk, WARREN of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2375** is enacted to read:

3 **§2375. Solar-ready building**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Solar-ready building" means a building that includes a solar-ready zone.

7 B. "Solar-ready zone" means a section of a roof or overhang of a building designated  
8 and reserved for a solar photovoltaic or solar thermal system and that is at least 40%  
9 of the roof area. For the purposes of this paragraph, roof area is calculated as the  
10 horizontal area minus the area covered by a skylight, an occupied roof deck or  
11 vegetative roof area and any mandatory access or setback required by a code under this  
12 chapter or the 2018 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code, Appendix  
13 CA or successor model code.

14 **2. Solar-ready building.** A newly constructed building of at least 25,000 square feet  
15 must be a solar-ready building. This subsection does not apply to a building for which the  
16 construction permit has been declared complete by the appropriate inspection authority  
17 under section 2373 on or before December 31, 2023.

18 **3. Rules.** The State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules that incorporate the provisions of  
19 the 2018 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code, Appendix CA or successor  
20 model code to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this  
21 subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

22 **Sec. 2. Public Utilities Commission to amend its rules for interconnection**  
23 **procedures of small generators to transmission and distribution utilities.** The  
24 Public Utilities Commission shall amend its rules regarding small generator  
25 interconnection procedures by allowing a certified, inverter-based facility that has a power  
26 rating of up to 100 kilowatts on radial or spot network systems to interconnect to a  
27 transmission and distribution utility under the commission's level 1 screening criteria and  
28 process established by the commission's rule Chapter 324.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill requires new buildings of at least 25,000 square feet to reserve 40% of  
31 applicable roof space for future installation of a solar energy system. This bill also requires  
32 the Public Utilities Commission to amend its interconnection rules to allow small electric  
33 power generators of up to a 100-kilowatt power rating to interconnect to a transmission and  
34 distribution utility under the commission's current level 1 screening criteria and process.