

SENATE BILL 353

C5

5lr1983

By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 24, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electric Companies – Installation of Solar Electric Generating Facility – New**
3 **Interconnection Agreement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a person who is negotiating a certain solar installation and
5 interconnection contract with a ~~customer to contact the customer's~~ certain
6 ~~customer-generator to submit to the customer-generator's~~ electric company to
7 ~~determine whether the electric company is accepting new interconnection~~
8 ~~agreements in the customer's property area and to notify the customer of this~~
9 ~~determination before the contract is executed~~ a certain application; allowing a
10 certain person to accept a certain payment before receiving a certain approval;
11 prohibiting a certain person to begin a certain installation under certain
12 circumstances; requiring a certain person to notify a certain customer-generator of
13 a certain decision; requiring a certain person to refund a certain payment under
14 certain circumstances; requiring an electric company, on request of a certain person,
15 to provide certain information regarding the ability of the distribution system to
16 ~~accept a new interconnection~~ process a certain application and notify the person of a
17 certain decision in accordance with a certain process and time frame specified in
18 certain regulations; and generally relating to a new interconnection agreement for
19 the installation of a solar electric generating facility.

20 BY adding to

21 Article – Public Utilities

22 Section 7-306.1

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 Article – Public Utilities

4 **7-306.1.**

5 (A) A PERSON WHO IS NEGOTIATING A CONTRACT WITH ~~A CUSTOMER~~ AN
6 ELIGIBLE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR TO INSTALL AND OPERATE A SOLAR ELECTRIC
7 GENERATING FACILITY ON THE ~~CUSTOMER'S~~ CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S PROPERTY
8 FOR THAT THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR OWNS AND OPERATES, LEASES AND
9 OPERATES, OR CONTRACTS WITH A THIRD PARTY THAT OWNS AND OPERATES AND
10 THAT REQUIRES INTERCONNECTION WITH AN ELECTRIC COMPANY'S TRANSMISSION
11 AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES SHALL:

12 (1) ~~CONTACT THE CUSTOMER'S ELECTRIC COMPANY TO DETERMINE~~
13 ~~WHETHER THE ELECTRIC COMPANY IS ACCEPTING NEW INTERCONNECTION~~
14 ~~AGREEMENTS IN THE CUSTOMER'S PROPERTY AREA; AND SHALL SUBMIT TO THE~~
15 CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S ELECTRIC COMPANY A COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR
16 INTERCONNECTION OF THE SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY WITH THE
17 ELECTRIC COMPANY'S DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES;

18 (2) BEFORE RECEIVING THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S APPROVAL OF
19 THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

20 (I) MAY ACCEPT PAYMENT FROM THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR
21 IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTRACT; BUT

22 (II) MAY NOT BEGIN INSTALLATION OF THE SOLAR ELECTRIC
23 GENERATING FACILITY ON THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S PROPERTY;

24 ~~(2)~~ (3) SHALL NOTIFY THE ~~CUSTOMER~~ CUSTOMER-GENERATOR OF
25 THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S ABILITY TO ACCEPT NEW INTERCONNECTION
26 AGREEMENTS IN THE CUSTOMER'S PROPERTY AREA BEFORE THE CONTRACT IS
27 EXECUTED APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER
28 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

29 (4) IF THE ELECTRIC COMPANY DISAPPROVES THE APPLICATION
30 SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, SHALL FULLY REFUND
31 ANY PAYMENT FROM THE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF
32 THIS SUBSECTION.

1 **(B) ON REQUEST OF A PERSON UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS**
2 **SECTION, AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL ~~PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE~~**
3 **~~ABILITY OF A SPECIFIC LOCATION ON THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO ACCEPT A NEW~~**
4 **~~INTERCONNECTION~~ PROCESS AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION**
5 **(A)(1) OF THIS SECTION AND NOTIFY THE PERSON WHETHER THE APPLICATION IS**
6 **APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROCESS AND TIME FRAME**
7 **SPECIFIED IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION.**

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2015.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.