

HB1087/213096/1

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1087
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after “a” insert “pilot”; strike beginning with “authorizing” in line 6 down through “ratepayers;” in line 17 and substitute “providing for the beginning and termination of the pilot program;”; in line 18, after “date;” insert “providing for the continuation of certain contracts under certain circumstances; providing for the inclusion of certain generation in a certain limitation;”; in line 19, after “Assembly;” insert “requiring the Public Service Commission to study certain matters and report its findings to certain committees on or before a certain date;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 22, after “ELECTRICITY” insert “, OR THE VALUE OF ITS GENERATED ELECTRICITY,”; and in line 26, strike “KILOWATT-HOURS” and substitute “KILOWATTS”.

On page 3, strike beginning with the comma in line 1 down through “SUPPLIER” in line 2; in line 4, after “SYSTEMS” insert “PILOT”; in line 23, after the second “THE” insert “KILOWATT-HOURS OR VALUE OF”; in line 24, after “THE” insert “KILOWATT-HOURS OR VALUE OF”; and in line 26, after “PERIOD” insert “, AS CALCULATED UNDER THE TARIFFS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION”.

On page 4, strike beginning with “STIMULATE” in line 4 down through “(III)” in line 6; and in line 9, strike “(IV)” and substitute “(III)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 4, in line 30, after “ESTABLISH” insert “A PILOT PROGRAM FOR”.

(Over)

On page 5, in lines 1 and 3, in each instance, strike “**THE PROGRAM**” and substitute “**THE PILOT PROGRAM**”; in line 9, after the semicolon, insert “**AND**”; strike beginning with “**CALCULATE**” in line 10 down through “**(III)**” in line 12; in line 14, strike “**(F)**” and substitute “**(E)**”; in line 16, strike “**(F)(2)**” and substitute “**(E)(2)**”; and in line 19, strike “**120%**” and substitute “**200%**”.

On page 6, in line 1, strike “**(F)**” and substitute “**(E)**”; in line 7, strike “**THE PROGRAM**” and substitute “**THE PILOT PROGRAM**”; and after line 7, insert:

“(12) EQUIPMENT FOR A COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM MAY NOT BE BUILT ON CONTIGUOUS PARCELS OF LAND UNLESS THE EQUIPMENT IS INSTALLED ONLY ON BUILDING ROOFTOPS.”

(13) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL:

(I) BEGIN ON THE EARLIER OF:

1. THE DATE OF SUBMISSION OF THE FIRST PETITION OF A SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATION UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(9) OF THIS SECTION AFTER THE COMMISSION ADOPTS THE REGULATIONS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; OR

2. 6 MONTHS AFTER THE COMMISSION ADOPTS THOSE REGULATIONS; AND

(II) END 3 YEARS AFTER THE BEGINNING DATE.”

On pages 6 and 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 8 on page 6 through line 24 on page 7.

On page 7, in line 25, strike “(F)” and substitute “(E)”; in the same line, strike “JANUARY” and substitute “APRIL”; and strike beginning with “CREDITS” in line 29 down through “SUBTITLE” in line 31 and substitute “KILOWATT-HOURS OR VALUE OF THE SUBSCRIBER’S SUBSCRIPTION, AS THE COMMISSION DETERMINES”.

On page 8, strike beginning with “THAT” in line 1 down through “SUBTITLE” in line 3 and substitute “AS THE COMMISSION DETERMINES”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 8, after line 11, insert:

“(F) (1) SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS OR ORDERS OF THE COMMISSION, A CONTRACT RELATING TO A COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM OR SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATION THAT IS ENTERED INTO DURING THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT, INCLUDING AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

“(2) AFTER TERMINATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPERATIONAL AND BILLING REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION:

“(I) A SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATION MAY CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF A COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM THAT BEGAN OPERATION DURING THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE CREATION AND TRADING OF SUBSCRIPTIONS; AND

“(II) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TARIFFS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION, AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL

(Over)

CONTINUE TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF A COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM THAT BEGAN OPERATION DURING THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(G) THE CUMULATIVE INSTALLED NAMEPLATE CAPACITY UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL COUNT TOWARD THE OVERALL LIMITATION OF 1,500 MEGAWATTS FOR ALL NET METERING PROJECTS IN § 7-306(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Public Service Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Energy Administration, shall convene a stakeholder workgroup to study the value and costs of the pilot program established under § 7-306.1 of the Public Utilities Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act and make recommendations to the Commission on the advisability of establishing a permanent program.

(b) In conducting the study, the workgroup shall identify and examine:

(1) a framework for valuation of the costs and benefits related to community solar and virtual net energy metering;

(2) the costs and benefits of community solar energy generating systems to participating subscribers and to nonsubscriber ratepayers;

(3) an appropriate credit mechanism and operational structure that allows a community renewable solar energy generating system to minimize administrative costs to an electric company, electric supplier, or subscriber organization;

(4) the benefits to and the technical and cost impacts of community solar programs and virtual net energy metering on an electric company's distribution grid;

(5) issues, benefits, and concerns related to the participation of electric companies, including investor-owned utilities, in community solar programs and projects, including owners and operators of the projects;

(6) whether and how community solar projects or virtual net energy metering have a substantially different technical impact on the distribution system than traditional net energy metering;

(7) identification of any impacts on the standard offer service procurement process;

(8) a review of community solar programs and cost-benefit studies in other states;

(9) whether and how community solar programs can help reduce the cost of compliance with the renewable energy portfolio standard;

(10) how community solar energy generating systems can impact locational marginal prices in Maryland;

(11) the impacts of the pilot program on energy costs, reliability, and equitable cost allocation for ratepayers;

(12) how community solar project developers can increase participation by low- and moderate-income retail electric customers in community solar projects;

(13) the progress of the community solar energy generating pilot program under § 7-306.1 of the Public Utilities Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, in attracting low- and moderate-income retail electric customers;

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(14) whether community solar energy generating systems are an overall net benefit in helping Maryland achieve its distributed generation and renewable goals;

(15) any other matters the workgroup considers relevant; and

(16) any additional factors the Public Service Commission considers appropriate.

(c) On or before July 1, 2019, the Public Service Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, based on the study conducted under this section, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Public Service Commission shall notify the General Assembly and Department of Legislative Services when the pilot program begins in accordance § 7-306.1(f) of the Public Utilities Article, as enacted by this Act.”;

in line 12, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”; and in line 13, strike “October” and substitute “July”.