



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1232

H.P. 780

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

An Act to Increase Adoption of Solar Power in Maine

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert 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.

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

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

§2375. Solar-ready building

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUMMARY

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