

SENATE BILL 398

C5

5lr1088

By: ~~Senators Pugh and Muse~~, Muse, Middleton, Benson, Feldman, Hershey, Klausmeier, and Mathias

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Community Solar Projects or Virtual Net Energy**
3 **Metering – Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission, in consultation with the
5 Maryland Energy Administration, to convene a stakeholder workgroup to study and
6 make recommendations on the ~~establishment of~~ advisability of establishing a
7 program to allow certain customers to participate in certain community solar
8 projects or virtual net energy metering; requiring the workgroup to examine certain
9 matters relating to the ~~establishment of~~ advisability of establishing a certain
10 program; requiring the Commission to report to the General Assembly on or before
11 a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a
12 study by the Public Service Commission on the ~~establishment of~~ advisability of
13 establishing a program for community solar projects or virtual net energy metering.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That:

16 (a) The Public Service Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Energy
17 Administration, shall convene a stakeholder workgroup to study and make
18 recommendations on the ~~establishment of~~ advisability of establishing a program to allow
19 ~~residential~~ customers who are unable to install solar panels on their own property to
20 participate in community solar projects or virtual net energy metering through which a
21 customer may subscribe to the output of the solar installation and obtain the benefits of
22 solar generation.

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

2 (1) the costs and benefits associated with the transmission and distribution
3 of the energy produced through a community solar project or virtual net energy metering;

4 (2) how similar ~~efforts~~ programs in other states have been established and
5 work;

6 (3) the allocation of solar renewable energy credits produced by a
7 community solar project or virtual net energy metering;

8 (4) possible eligibility requirements for customers to participate in a
9 community solar project or virtual net energy metering; ~~and~~

10 (5) whether and how community solar projects or virtual net energy
11 metering can help reduce the cost of compliance with the State's renewable energy portfolio
12 standard;

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

16 (7) whether and how community solar projects or virtual net energy
17 metering can expand access to ratepayers who want to invest in solar energy, particularly
18 low-income ratepayers; and

19 ~~(5)~~ (8) any other matters the workgroup identifies as pertinent to
20 establishment of determining the advisability of establishing the program.

21 (c) On or before December 1, 2016, the Public Service Commission shall report its
22 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
23 the State Government Article.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
26 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
27 of no further force and effect.