

SENATE, No. 585

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires solar technology on certain State buildings where feasible.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 **AN ACT** concerning solar technology on certain State buildings and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Division of Property Management and Construction,
8 in the Department of the Treasury, shall install and operate solar
9 technology on the rooftop of each State building, where feasible,
10 within five years after the date of enactment of this act. If a State
11 building has received historic designation, solar technology may be
12 installed and operated only if all alterations to be made are
13 compatible with acceptable historic preservation practices.

14 b. Within one year after the date of enactment of this act, the
15 Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the Board of
16 Public Utilities, shall develop a list of State buildings for which it is
17 feasible to install and operate solar technology.

18 c. The Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the
19 Board of Public Utilities, may contract for the purchase of solar
20 technology or may otherwise enter into an agreement for the
21 installation and operation or lease of solar technology. If solar
22 technology is purchased, any revenue generated from the sale or use
23 of net excess energy shall be dedicated to the Clean Energy Fund
24 managed by the Board of Public Utilities. The State shall be
25 eligible to net meter, notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or
26 board order to the contrary. If the department, in consultation with
27 the board, contracts for the installation and operation of solar
28 technology by a public utility, and the State intends to use the solar
29 technology to directly fulfill energy needs, the contract may further
30 provide for the exchange of net excess energy to the public utility.

31 d. As used in this section:

32 “Solar technology” means technology which uses solar energy to
33 support the general energy needs of a building, including but not
34 limited to photovoltaic solar cells and solar hot water systems.

35 “State building” means a building owned and operated by the
36 State.

37
38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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41 STATEMENT

42
43 This bill would require installation and operation of solar
44 technology on all State buildings, where feasible, within five years
45 after the date of enactment of this bill into law.

46 Under the bill, solar technology would be installed and operated
47 on a State building with historic designation only if all alterations to

1 be made are compatible with acceptable historic preservation
2 practices. The bill defines solar technology as technology which
3 uses solar energy to support the general energy needs of a building,
4 including but not limited to photovoltaic solar cells and solar hot
5 water systems.

6 The bill would allow the Department of the Treasury, in
7 consultation with the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), to contract
8 for the purchase of solar technology or otherwise enter into an
9 agreement for the installation and operation or lease of solar
10 technology. If solar technology is purchased, revenue generated
11 from the sale or use of net excess energy would be dedicated to the
12 Clean Energy Fund managed by the Board of Public Utilities. The
13 State would also be eligible to net meter. If the department, in
14 consultation with the BPU, contracts for the installation and
15 operation of solar technology by a public utility, and the State
16 intends to use the solar technology to directly fulfill energy needs,
17 the contract may further provide for the exchange of net excess
18 energy to the public utility.

19 New Jersey is the fastest growing market for solar photovoltaics
20 in the United States, and one of the largest in terms of installations,
21 second only to California, which has four times the population and
22 energy usage. The State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard
23 (RPS), as established by the BPU, requires renewable energy
24 sources to generate 22.5% of the State's electricity consumption by
25 the year 2020, with 20% supplied from Class I renewable energy
26 sources, including solar and photovoltaic technologies, and 2.5%
27 from Class II renewable energy sources. In October 2008, the New
28 Jersey Energy Master Plan was released, which calls for increasing
29 the State's RPS to a goal of 30% by 2020 and changing the State's
30 solar energy goal from 2.12% to a goal of 2,120 GWh
31 (approximately 1,800 MW) by 2020. Solar technology on top of
32 State owned and operated buildings dually increases the State's use
33 of and reliance on clean renewable solar energy and uses existing
34 buildings to generate energy to meet or exceed the State's energy
35 needs.