

**SENATE, No. 2816**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BOB SMITH**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Senator JOHN F. MCKEON**

**District 27 (Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires electric public utilities to submit to BPU and implement electric infrastructure improvement plans.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning distributed energy sources and supplementing  
2 Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 "Board" means the Board of Public Utilities.

9 "Reactive power" means the portion of alternating current  
10 electricity, measured in volt-amperes reactive, that cannot do useful  
11 work due to a misalignment of the current and voltage waveforms  
12 of the electricity.

13 b. The Board of Public Utilities shall require each electric public  
14 utility to file, no later than 90 days after the effective date of this  
15 act, an electric infrastructure improvement plan, in accordance with  
16 procedures established by the board. The purpose of the plans shall  
17 be to reopen many of the State's electric distribution circuits that  
18 have been closed to any additional renewable energy installations,  
19 or restricted to 100 kilowatts or less of remaining circuit capacity.  
20 Each plan shall include provisions for:

21 (1) permitting the flow of electricity, through an electrical  
22 substation, from the distribution system to the transmission system;

23 (2) requiring solar inverters to include, activate, and utilize all  
24 available inverter technology that allows the inverter to inject and  
25 absorb reactive power autonomously or in response to remote  
26 control;

27 (3) requiring energy storage systems to include, activate, and  
28 utilize all available inverter technology that allows the energy  
29 storage system to inject and absorb real and reactive power;

30 (4) requiring solar photovoltaic systems to include, activate, and  
31 use technology and services that enable the power output of the  
32 system to respond to short-term predictions of weather conditions to  
33 control the rate of change of power output or other system  
34 parameters; and

35 (5) any additional low-cost and highly actionable potential  
36 solutions identified by an electric public utility to reopen closed  
37 electric distribution circuits to renewable energy installations.

38 c. No later than 120 days after the effective date of this act, the  
39 board shall review and approve, or approve with modifications,  
40 each electric infrastructure improvement plan. As a condition of  
41 approval, the board shall require each electric public utility to  
42 schedule the associated work to be completed at the earliest date  
43 possible.

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45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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4       This bill would require each electric public utility in the State to  
5 submit, within 90 days after the bill's enactment, an electric  
6 infrastructure improvement plan to the Board of Public Utilities  
7 (BPU) for approval. The purpose of the plan would be to reopen  
8 many of the State's electric distribution circuits that have been  
9 closed to any additional renewable energy installations, or restricted  
10 to 100 kilowatts or less of remaining circuit capacity.

11       The bill would require each plan to contain certain provisions, as  
12 enumerated in subsection b. of section 1 of the bill, as well as any  
13 additional provisions included by the utility. The bill would require  
14 the BPU to approve, or accept with modifications, each plan within  
15 120 days after the bill's enactment. Each utility would be required  
16 to schedule the work associated with each plan at the earliest date  
17 possible.