

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2816

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

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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 reported by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee on March 4, 2024, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning distributed energy sources and supplementing
2 Title 48 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. 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 of
12 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 act,
15 an electric infrastructure improvement plan, in accordance with
16 procedures established by the board. The purpose of the plans shall be
17 to reopen many of the State's electric distribution circuits that have
18 been closed to any additional renewable energy installations, or
19 restricted to 100 kilowatts or less of remaining circuit capacity. ¹A
20 plan shall not be required to include infrastructure improvements to the
21 electric transmission system.¹ Each plan shall include provisions for:

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

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

27 (3) requiring energy storage systems to include, activate, and
28 utilize all available inverter technology that allows the energy storage
29 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 system
32 to respond to short-term predictions of weather conditions to control
33 the rate of change of power output or other system parameters; and

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

37 c. No later than 120 days after the effective date of this act, the
38 board shall review and approve, ¹**[or]**¹ approve with modifications,
39 ¹or disapprove¹ each electric infrastructure improvement plan. As a
40 condition of approval, the board shall require each electric public
41 utility to schedule the associated work to be completed at the earliest
42 date possible.

43

44 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SEN committee amendments adopted March 4, 2024.