

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5340

## AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE POWER GENERATION. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 5450

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### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***See Fiscal Note Details***

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and replaces it with the fiscal impact described below.

**Sections 1-4** establish a variety of successor renewable energy programs, including establishing tariffs and rates, energy purchased under the tariffs, and applicable rates when tariffs expire. Additionally, **Section 4** sets the total aggregate electric distribution company (EDC) procurement target at 180 megawatt-hour per year and \$85 million per year, accounting for all energy and energy products. These changes do not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) or the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), as they are replacing existing energy programs and both DEEP and PURA have the staff and expertise necessary to implement the successor programs.

**Sections 5 and 6** incorporate sunset provisions for various programs that do not result in a fiscal impact to the state.

**Section 7** requires the Green Bank, beginning in FY 27, to establish a pilot program for various residential solar customers and caps the program at \$2 million. This could result in a cost to the Green Bank associated with the total amount of incentives paid to customers through the pilot program.

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**Section 8** expands the scope of the solar consumer protection working group, which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the agencies assigned to the working group have the staff and expertise necessary to complete the requirements contained within the amendment.

**Sections 9 and 10** exempt portable solar generation devices from interconnection requirements and do not result in a fiscal impact to the state.

**Sections 11** requires DEEP to conduct a study of the feasibility of implementing an incentive program for agrivoltaics projects and does not result in a fiscal impact as they have the staff and expertise necessary to complete the requirements of the study.

**Sections 12 and 13** require Siting Council certificate holders for an electric generation or storage facility to report any major incident at the facility and make other changes requiring Siting Council applicants to provide emergency services training at certain facilities. These changes are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state.

**Section 14** establishes a working group within PURA to review and assess any processes on the resumption of electric generation services after a service shutoff at an electric generation or storage facility that exceeds five days. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the members of the working group have the staff and expertise necessary to fulfill the requirements contained within the amendment.

**Section 15**, which requires the Department of Administrative Services to implement a state-wide solar permitting platform, results in a General Fund cost of \$14,909,100 in FY 27 and \$1,909,100 annually thereafter. The costs include 1) a one-time cost of \$13 million to build the platform, 2) \$500,000 in salary and \$209,100 in fringe to hire five new employees, and 3) \$1.2 million annually for training, licenses, and other operating expenses including cloud computing services.

**Section 16** establishes a one-year moratorium on the siting of certain

grid-scale solar facilities and does not result in a fiscal impact. **Section 16** also establishes a study regarding solar facilities, which could result in a potential cost to DEEP associated with hiring a consultant to complete the study.

**Sections 17 and 18** make clarifying changes to approval conditions for transmission and substations and do not result in a fiscal impact.

**Section 19** extends rebates for certain shared clean energy facilities and does not result in a fiscal impact to that state.

*The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*