



2014 Enacted Energy Legislation

Renewable Energy Growth Program (H-7727, S-2690) - The Renewable Energy Growth Program will replace the Distributed Generation Standard Contracts Program, which has been in place since June 2011. This new program will support local renewable distributed generation projects and Rhode Island's clean energy economy by establishing an additional 160 megawatt tariff-based program for businesses, municipalities, and homeowners beginning in 2015 and continuing until 2019. Eligible renewable energy technologies will include wind, solar, anaerobic digestion, and small-scale hydropower.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H7727Aaa.pdf>

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/SenateText14/S2690Aaa.pdf>

The Affordable Clean Energy Security Act ("ACES" H-7991, S-2439) – The Affordable Clean Energy Security Act establishes a transparent process for the Office of Energy Resources to work with energy officials throughout the New England region to identify cost-effective energy infrastructure projects – using coordinated, competitive procurement processes – that have the potential to lower consumer energy costs; improve system reliability; advance clean energy mandates; and enhance our quality of life and environment. The costs of these regional projects – which may include electric transmission to interconnect large-scale hydropower and other renewable resources, and interstate natural gas pipeline expansion projects – will be shared across the New England states in an equitable manner. ACES requires the OER to work with the Division of Public Utilities & Carriers and the state's electric distribution company to ensure such regional projects are in the energy, economic, and environmental interests of Rhode Island, and file any such proposals with the Public Utilities Commission for review and approval. Such projects will be subject to open and transparent evidentiary and public hearings. The Departments of Commerce and Environmental Management will also be required to provide advisory opinions on the potential impacts to our economy and environment, respectively, resulting from any proposed energy infrastructure projects.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H7991A.pdf>

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/SenateText14/S2439Aaa.pdf>

Renewable Energy Licensing (H-8200, S-2692) – The state's electrical licensing law was updated to reflect changes needed to allow for the growth of the renewable energy market in Rhode Island. The legislation removes the requirement that a renewable energy company must have a master electrician as a permanent staff or officer of the company in order to advertise, solicit, bid on, or install renewable energy projects. The legislation defines the specific roles of electricians, plumbers, and general contractors on a renewable energy job site. Finally, the legislation establishes a Renewable Energy Professional Certificate (REPC). A business will need to demonstrate that it has received proper training or has significant experience in renewable energy installations in order to receive a REPC from the Department of Labor and Training. The Office of Energy Resources will assist the Department of Labor and Training to develop the REPC requirements.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H8200A.pdf>

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/SenateText14/S2692A.pdf>

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (Budget Article 7) - The FY2015 State Budget amended the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) statute. The RGGI administrative funding available to the Office of Energy Resources and Department of Environmental Management was increased from 5% or \$300,000, whichever is less, to \$300,000 or 10%, whichever is greater.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H7133Aaa.pdf> - Page 72

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Article 14) - The FY2015 State Budget amended the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to transfer all remaining LIHEAP administrative responsibilities from the Office of Energy Resources to the Department of Human Services.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H7133Aaa.pdf> - Page 200

Long-Term Contracting Standard (H-7776, S-2440) – An amendment to the Long-Term Contracting Standard now gives the Public Utilities Commission ninety (90) days (increased from 45 days) to approve or reject all long-term renewable energy contracts submitted to them for consideration. This provides the Public Utilities Commission with additional time to review applications submitted under the program.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H7786.pdf>

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/SenateText14/S2440.pdf>

Net-Metering (H-8010, S-2915) – Virtual net metering of renewable energy systems was expanded beyond municipal properties to include properties owned by the State, wastewater treatment facilities, public transit agencies, and drinking water facilities (including the Water Supply Board of the City of Providence).

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H8010A.pdf>

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/SenateText14/S2915A.pdf>

Energy Efficiency Resource Management Council: Additional Membership (H-7545, S-2686) – This legislation adds two (2) new members to the Energy Efficiency Resource Management Council (EERMC) in 2015. The new EERMC members will represent municipal energy interests and job training skill expertise.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H7545.pdf>

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/SenateText14/S2686.pdf>

Electric Vehicles Report (House Resolution H-7726)

The House requests that the Office of Energy Resources issue a report describing its findings and recommendations to address regulatory issues affecting electric vehicles to the General Assembly on or before April 15, 2015.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H7726.pdf>

Energy Security Report (House Resolution H-8227)

The House requests that the Office of Energy Resources issue a report describing its findings and recommendations around energy security and improvement opportunities to the General Assembly on or before May 26, 2015.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText14/HouseText14/H8227.pdf>

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