

SENATE BILL 811

C5

6lr3473
CF HB 440

By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electric Companies – Installation of Solar Electric Generating Facility –**
3 **Completion of Interconnection**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring an electric company, subject to a certain provision, to
5 complete interconnection of a customer–generator’s solar electric generating facility
6 with the electric company’s distribution facilities by providing acceptance and final
7 approval to operate within a certain period after completion of a certain installation
8 process; requiring an electric company to complete certain interconnection
9 requirements for a certain percentage of installation processes completed during a
10 certain time in the electric company’s service territory; specifying that the
11 installation process includes an approved interconnection application, completion of
12 the installation of the solar electric generating facility and certain required system
13 upgrades, and completion of all necessary paperwork and documentation;
14 authorizing the Public Service Commission to waive a certain requirement under
15 certain circumstances; defining a certain term; and generally relating to
16 interconnection of a customer–generator’s solar electric generating facility.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Public Utilities

19 Section 7–306.1

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Public Utilities

7–306.1.

(a) A person who is negotiating a contract with an eligible customer–generator to install a solar electric generating facility on the customer–generator’s property that the customer–generator owns and operates, leases and operates, or contracts with a third party that owns and operates and that requires interconnection with an electric company’s distribution facilities:

(1) shall submit to the customer–generator’s electric company a completed application for interconnection of the solar electric generating facility with the electric company’s distribution facilities;

(2) before receiving the electric company’s approval of the application submitted under paragraph (1) of this subsection:

(i) may accept payment from the customer–generator in connection with the contract; but

(ii) may not begin installation of the solar electric generating facility on the customer–generator’s property;

(3) shall notify the customer–generator of the electric company’s approval or disapproval of the application submitted under paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(4) if the electric company disapproves the application submitted under paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall fully refund any payment from the customer–generator under paragraph (2)(i) of this subsection.

(b) On request of a person under subsection (a)(1) of this section, an electric company shall process an application submitted under subsection (a)(1) of this section and notify the person whether the application is approved or disapproved in accordance with a process and time frame specified in regulations adopted by the Commission.

(C) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “INSTALLATION PROCESS” INCLUDES:

(I) AN APPROVED APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION;

(II) COMPLETION OF THE INSTALLATION OF THE CUSTOMER–GENERATOR’S SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY AND ANY REQUIRED ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM UPGRADES; AND

1 (III) COMPLETION OF ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK AND
2 DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING A SIGNED INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT,
3 CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION, AND AN INSPECTION CERTIFICATE.

4 (2) ~~AN (I)~~ SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
5 PARAGRAPH, AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL COMPLETE INTERCONNECTION OF
6 ISSUE ACCEPTANCE AND FINAL APPROVAL TO OPERATE A
7 CUSTOMER-GENERATOR'S SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY WITH ON THE
8 ELECTRIC COMPANY'S DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES BY PROVIDING ACCEPTANCE AND
9 FINAL APPROVAL TO OPERATE WITHIN 20 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER RECEIVING
10 NOTICE OF THE COMPLETION OF THE INSTALLATION PROCESS THE COMPLETION OF
11 THE INSTALLATION PROCESS AND RECEIPT OF THE PAPERWORK AND
12 DOCUMENTATION SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

13 (II) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL COMPLETE THE
14 INTERCONNECTION REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS
15 PARAGRAPH FOR AT LEAST 90% OF INSTALLATION PROCESSES COMPLETED DURING
16 THE YEAR IN THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S SERVICE TERRITORY.

17 (3) THE COMMISSION MAY TEMPORARILY WAIVE THE
18 REQUIREMENTS UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN AN ELECTRIC
19 COMPANY'S SERVICE TERRITORY ON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2016.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.