

SENATE No. 2058

Senate, November 18, 2015 -- Text of the further Senate amendment (Senator Downing) to the Senate Bill providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change (Senate, No. 1979)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

1 SECTION 1. Section 138 of chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Customer” the following
3 definition:-

4 “Market net metering credit”, a credit equal to the basic service kilowatt-hour charge in
5 the ISO-NE load zone where the customer is located; provided, however, that net metering
6 facilities of a municipality or other governmental entity, eligible recipients of credits from net
7 metering facilities serving low income customers as such customers are defined by the
8 department of energy resources pursuant to section 11F of chapter 25A, eligible recipients of
9 credits from community shared net metering as defined by the department of energy resources
10 pursuant to said section 11F of said chapter 25A, landfills and brownfields and solar net metering
11 facilities for which less than 67 per cent of the net metering facility’s electrical energy on an
12 annual basis is used by an onsite load shall receive a credit equal to the excess kilowatt-hours by
13 time of use billing period, if applicable, multiplied by the sum of the distribution company’s: (i)
14 default service kilowatt-hour charge in the ISO-NE load zone where the customer is located; (ii)
15 transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and (iii) transition kilowatt-hour charge; provided, however,

16 that “market net metering credit” shall not include the demand side management and renewable
17 energy kilowatt-hour charges in sections 19 and 20 of chapter 25.

18 SECTION 2. Section 139 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
19 inserting after subsection (b) the following subsection:-

20 (b^{1/2}) Upon a determination by the department of energy resources that 1,600 megawatts
21 direct current has been qualified under subsection (g) of section 11F of chapter 25A, the
22 department shall certify the date that capacity has been reached and provide a date of notification
23 that all new Class I, Class II and Class III solar net metering facilities in commercial operation
24 after that date shall generate market net metering credits only. A distribution company customer
25 that uses electricity generated by a solar net metering facility that generates market net metering
26 credits may elect net metering as provided in this subsection.

27 If the electricity generated by the solar net metering facility under this subsection during
28 a billing period exceeds the customer’s kilowatt-hour usage during the billing period, the
29 customer shall be billed for 0 kilowatt-hour usage and the excess market net metering credits
30 shall be credited to the customer’s account. Credits may be carried forward from month to
31 month. A solar net metering facility may designate customers of the same distribution company
32 to which the solar net metering facility is interconnected and that are located in the same ISO-NE
33 load zone to receive such credits in amounts attributed by the solar net metering facility. Written
34 notice of the identities of the customers so designated and the amounts of the credits to be
35 attributed to those customers shall be in such a form as the distribution company shall reasonably
36 require.

37 If the customer’s kilowatt-hour usage exceeds the electricity generated by the solar net
38 metering facility during the billing period, the customer shall be responsible for the balance at
39 the distribution company’s applicable rate.

40 SECTION 3. Said section 139 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby further
41 amended by striking out, in line 73, the figure “4” and inserting in place thereof the following
42 figure:- 6.

43 SECTION 4. Said section 139 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby further
44 amended by striking out, in line 75, the figure “5” and inserting in place thereof the following
45 figure:- 7.

46 SECTION 5. Said section 139 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby further
47 amended by inserting after the word “from”, in line 107, the following words:- subsection (b^{1/2})
48 and subsection (j) and from.

49 SECTION 6. Said section 139 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby further
50 amended by inserting after the word “meter”, in line 110, the following words:- and accrue Class
51 I net metering credits.

52 SECTION 7. Said section 139 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby further
53 amended by adding the following subsection:-

54 (j) A Class I, Class II or Class III solar net metering facility, as defined in sections
55 138 and 139, shall continue to receive Class I, Class II or Class III net metering credits as
56 otherwise provided by this section if that facility is determined to be so eligible by the
57 department of energy resources prior to the date of notification that 1,600 megawatts direct

58 current of solar generation has been qualified under subsection (g) of section 11F of chapter
59 25A; provided, however, that at the expiration of 30 years from the date upon which the Class I,
60 Class II or Class III solar net metering facility was authorized to interconnect to the distribution
61 system by a distribution company, that facility shall receive market net metering credits.

62 SECTION 8. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any renewable
63 energy generating source using solar photovoltaic or solar thermal electric energy that has
64 previously qualified for programs under subsection (g) of section 11F of chapter 25A of the
65 General Laws and applicable regulations, as determined by the department of energy resources,
66 prior to notice from the department that 1,600 megawatts direct current of solar generation has
67 been qualified in the commonwealth, shall continue to be subject to and receive benefits from
68 those programs including, but not limited to, the solar carve-out program and its successors,
69 pursuant to the requirements of 225 CMR 14.00.

70 SECTION 9. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
71 department of energy resources shall adopt rules and regulations to develop a sustainable long-
72 term framework that effectively balances promoting clean energy and costs to ratepayers;
73 provided, however, that such rules and regulations shall apply only to new solar generating
74 facilities that become operational after 1,600 megawatts direct current of solar generation has
75 been qualified under subsection (g) of section 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws.

76 (b) The department of energy resources shall develop a statewide solar incentive program
77 to encourage the continued development of solar renewable energy generating sources by
78 residential, commercial, governmental and industrial electricity customers throughout the
79 commonwealth. The department shall, after notice and the opportunity for public comment,

80 promulgate rules and regulations implementing a solar incentive program which: (i) promotes the
81 orderly transition to a stable and self-sustaining solar market at a reasonable cost to ratepayers;
82 (ii) considers underlying system costs including, but not limited to, module costs, balance of
83 system costs, installation costs and soft costs; (iii) takes into account electricity revenues and any
84 federal or state incentives; (iv) relies on market-based mechanisms or price signals as much as
85 possible to set incentive levels; (v) minimizes direct and indirect program costs and barriers; (vi)
86 features a known or easily estimated budget to achieve program goals through use of a declining
87 adjustable block incentive, a competitive procurement model, tariff or other declining incentive
88 framework; (vii) differentiates incentive levels to support diverse installation types and sizes that
89 provide unique benefits including, but not limited to, community-shared solar facilities and
90 municipally-owned solar facilities and which may include differentiation by utility service
91 territory, the location or the size of the solar renewable energy generating source; (viii) considers
92 environmental benefits, energy demand reduction and other avoided costs provided by solar
93 renewable energy generating facilities; (ix) encourages solar generation where it can provide
94 benefits to the distribution system; (x) promotes investor confidence through long-term incentive
95 revenue certainty and market stability; and (xi) ensure that the costs of the program are shared
96 collectively among all ratepayers of the distribution companies.

97 (c) Any tariff developed by the department under this section for implementation by
98 distribution companies shall be submitted to the department of public utilities for review and
99 approval. The department of public utilities shall consider both the potential benefits and costs of
100 the solar incentive program and shall review and make a determination within 90 days of
101 submission.

102 (d) Attributes, as defined by the department, of the solar photovoltaic facilities receiving
103 incentives under this section shall be eligible for use by retail electric suppliers pursuant to their
104 obligations under section 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws.