

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John R. Gaskey

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to improve energy grid resiliency throughout the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>John R. Gaskey</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>4/30/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

By Representative Gaskey of Carver, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John R. Gaskey relative to solar photovoltaic system disconnection, recycling and battery storage. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act to improve energy grid resiliency throughout the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1: Chapter 164 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the following
2 new section after section 148:

3 Section 149: (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a homeowner
4 in the commonwealth who owns and operates a solar photovoltaic system located on their
5 residential property or on any buildings located on their property shall have the right to
6 disconnect (go off-grid) their property entirely from the electric distribution system operated by
7 an electric distribution company (EDC), and use their solar production for their own personal
8 purposes provided that the homeowner complies with the requirements set forth in this section.

9 (b) Any homeowner seeking to disconnect their property from the electric distribution
10 system pursuant to this section shall submit a written notice to the EDC serving their area at
11 least ninety (90) days prior to the intended date of disconnection from the EDC grid. The notice
12 shall include:

13 NOTE: Registration of system as a production unit with MassCEC meets the
14 requirement listed in sections 1, 2, and 3.

15 (1) Documentation demonstrating the homeowner's ownership of the solar photovoltaic
16 system and the property. (2) A detailed description of the solar photovoltaic system, including
17 its capacity, any energy storage systems (batteries), and any backup generation systems. (3) A
18 certification from a licensed electrical contractor in the commonwealth affirming that the solar
19 photovoltaic system, including any energy storage and backup generation, has been installed and
20 is operating safely and in compliance with all applicable electrical codes and safety standards.
21 (4) Written notification shall include online notification designed by and setup on EDC website
22 and connected to the database of power generation systems maintained by MASSCEC. The
23 homeowners written or oral date of disconnection shall serve as notice to the EDC that all energy
24 produced on homeowners property as of that date belongs solely to the homeowner. Any meter
25 locks, disconnection switches or other physical or mechanical responsibilities to ensure
26 disconnection from the energy distribution system that is not within the control of the
27 homeowner shall be the responsibility of the EDC to disconnect said homeowner.

28 (c) An EDC shall not impose any fees, charges, or penalties solely as a result of a
29 homeowner disconnecting their property from the electric distribution system pursuant to this
30 section. However, nothing in this section shall prevent an electric distribution company from
31 assessing a reconnection fee equivalent to a new customer connection fee, if one exists, for
32 reconnection to the grid at a future date, should the homeowner choose to do so.

33 (e) Nothing in this section shall relieve a homeowner who has disconnected from the
34 electric distribution system from complying with all other applicable state and local laws,

35 regulations, and ordinances, including but not limited to building codes, environmental
36 regulations, and zoning bylaws.

37 Chapter 164 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting the following
38 new section after section 149:

39 Section 150: Statewide Renewable Energy System Recycling Program

40 (a) There is hereby established a statewide Renewable Energy System Recycling
41 Program (the “Program”), to be administered by the Department of Environmental Protection
42 (the “Department”). The purpose of the Program is to facilitate the responsible collection,
43 processing, and recycling of all components of solar photovoltaic systems and other renewable
44 energy systems used in the commonwealth which includes but is not limited to solar panels,
45 battery storage systems, wind energy devices, associated mounting hardware and electronic
46 components of said energy system.

47 (b) The Department shall, within 6 months of the effective date of this act, develop and
48 implement a comprehensive plan for the Program, which shall include, but not be limited to:

49 (1) The facilitation of the creation of one or more designated Renewable Energy
50 Recycling Centers strategically located throughout the commonwealth and available at low or no
51 cost to the general population. The Department's role shall include, but not be limited to,
52 identifying potential locations, providing guidance on permitting processes, and offering
53 resources to encourage private sector investment in these centers. These centers shall be privately
54 owned and operated and shall be equipped to safely and efficiently dismantle, separate, and
55 process the various materials found in renewable energy systems, including but not limited to
56 silicon, glass, aluminum, cadmium, lead, cobalt, copper, fiberglass, and plastics. Any potential

57 areas for these centers will require compliance with federal CERCLA and safe drinking water act
58 as well as the Commonwealth's Chapter 21E standards such as ensuring all areas are lined in
59 accordance with hazardous waste disposal system regulations before accumulating renewable
60 energy system waste to prevent leaching into the groundwater. At no time shall earth be
61 removed for commercial sale at any of these sites.

62 (2) The development of best practices and environmental standards for the handling,
63 transportation, processing, and recycling of solar photovoltaic system components, ensuring the
64 safe and environmentally sound management of any hazardous materials. These standards shall
65 apply to all privately owned and operated Solar System Recycling Centers participating in the
66 program.

67 (3) The establishment of a funding mechanism for the Program, which may include a
68 surcharge on the sale or installation of new solar photovoltaic systems within the commonwealth,
69 appropriations from the general fund, grants, or other sources deemed appropriate by the
70 Department; however, no fees will be taken from owners/lessees of installations at the time of
71 passing. Additionally, all incentives to renewable energy companies looking to do business in the
72 commonwealth will cease immediately and will be used to alleviate financial burdens that have
73 been previously placed on the citizens of the commonwealth. This funding may be used to
74 support the Department's facilitation efforts and potentially provide incentives or grants to
75 privately owned Recycling Centers that meet the Program's standards, as well as providing
76 financial assistance for the remediation of any future contamination of the land or surrounding
77 groundwater, ponds, lakes, or private wells.

78 (4) The development of a system for the collection of end-of-life solar photovoltaic
79 systems from homeowners, businesses, and other entities, which may include establishing
80 collection points, coordinating with solar installers or manufacturers, or other effective methods
81 for transfer to the privately owned Recycling Centers.

82 (5) The creation of public awareness and education initiatives to inform consumers and
83 businesses about the importance of Renewable energy system recycling and the procedures for
84 participating in the Program, including directing end-of-life systems to the Recycling Centers.
85 These classes will be provided by the renewable energy installation companies with support from
86 the DPU.

87 (6) The establishment of reporting requirements for the privately owned Recycling
88 Centers and other entities involved in the Program to track the volume and types of materials
89 recycled.

90 (7) The exploration of partnerships with private sector entities with expertise in materials
91 recycling and recovery to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Program through these
92 privately owned centers.

93 (8) The consideration of policies to encourage the design of solar photovoltaic systems
94 that are more easily recyclable by private facilities.

95 (c) The Department shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations
96 necessary to implement and administer the Program, including but not limited to establishing
97 operational standards for privately owned Recycling Centers, setting collection procedures,
98 determining funding mechanisms, and establishing reporting requirements.

99 (d) Nothing in this section shall preclude private entities from establishing their own solar
100 photovoltaic system recycling facilities, provided that such facilities comply with all applicable
101 state and federal environmental laws and regulations, and any specific requirements established
102 by the Department under the Program. The Department may establish a certification process for
103 private recycling facilities that meet the standards of the statewide Program.

104 Chapter 164 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting the following
105 new section after section 150:

106 Section 151: (a) Battery Storage Program for Existing Solar Homeowners:

107 (1) The Department of Energy Resources (the “Department of Energy Resources”) shall,
108 within six months of the effective date of this act, establish a program to facilitate the adoption of
109 battery storage systems by existing owners of residential solar photovoltaic systems in the
110 commonwealth (the “Battery Storage Program”). (2) The Battery Storage Program shall explore
111 mechanisms to make battery storage more accessible and affordable for existing solar
112 homeowners, which may include, but not be limited to: (i) Financial incentives, such as rebates,
113 tax credits, or low-interest loans, for the purchase and installation of qualified battery storage
114 systems. (ii) Partnerships with electric distribution companies to offer streamlined
115 interconnection processes and potential grid services agreements for homeowners with battery
116 storage. (iii) Educational outreach and technical assistance to inform homeowners about the
117 benefits and options for battery storage. (3) Electric distribution companies in the commonwealth
118 will develop and offer battery storage solutions or programs to their existing residential
119 renewable energy customers, potentially through direct provision, partnerships with storage

120 providers, or innovative financing models, subject to review and approval by the Department of
121 Public Utilities.

122 (b) Battery Storage Requirement for Future Solar Installations:

123 (1) Commencing after the effective date of this act, all new residential solar photovoltaic
124 systems installed in the commonwealth shall be designed to include on-site battery storage with a
125 minimum capacity as determined by a homeowner approved qualified renewable energy installer
126 based on historical usage at the location of the installation. This requirement shall apply to all
127 permit applications for new residential renewable energy installations submitted on or after that
128 date to facilitate off-grid requirements. In the case of new residential construction where no
129 energy use data has been collected, neighborhood comparisons will be used to establish baseline
130 energy requirements for the design of a renewable energy system.

131 (c) Grid Services and Incentives:

132 (1) The Department of Public Utilities shall investigate and, where appropriate,
133 implement mechanisms to allow homeowners with battery storage systems to participate in grid
134 services programs, such as demand response or frequency regulation, and to be financially
135 compensated fairly for providing these services to the electric grid. (2) The Department of
136 Energy Resources shall explore additional incentives or programs to encourage the use of battery
137 storage to enhance grid resilience, reduce peak demand, and maximize the use of locally
138 generated solar energy.