

2026 -- H 7878

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS
ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, and Boylan

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 39-33-1, 39-33-2 and 39-33-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-
2 33 entitled "Energy Storage Systems Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-33-1. Definitions.**

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (1) "Constrained feeder" means a distribution feeder owned and/or operated by an electric
6 distribution company as defined in § 39-1-2 which feeder is eighty percent (80%) or higher load
7 constrained.

8 (2) "Commission" means the public utilities commission.

9 (2)(3) "Energy storage system" means any technology capable of converting electrical
10 energy to some form of stored energy for reversion to electrical energy at a later time.

11 (3)(4) "Long-duration energy storage system" means energy storage systems that are
12 capable of permanently displacing fossil fuel energy systems designed to store energy or necessary
13 for balancing intermittent renewable energy resources.

14 **39-33-2. Storage tariff.**

15 (a) No later than September 1, 2024, the ~~public utilities~~ commission shall engage
16 stakeholders to adopt a framework for an energy storage system tariff for energy storage systems
17 connected to the electric distribution system.

18 (1) The tariff framework should, at a minimum, address the ability of energy storage

1 systems to charge from and discharge to the electric distribution system.

2 (2) The commission shall set a schedule that is designed to result in a model tariff no later
3 than May 1, 2025, consistent with the tariff framework.

4 (3) Following that date, if the commission finds that the energy storage system tariff can
5 be implemented without inequitable cross subsidization between customers, each electric
6 distribution company as defined in § 39-1-2 that has greater than one hundred thousand (100,000)
7 customers shall file the model tariff for review and approval by the ~~public utilities~~ commission in
8 a contested proceeding. Otherwise, the model tariff shall be included as part of the electric
9 distribution company's next general rate filing.

10 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, no later than September 30, 2026, each
11 electric distribution company as defined in § 39-1-2 that has greater than one hundred thousand
12 (100,000) customers shall file an energy storage system tariff for review and approval by the
13 commission in a contested proceeding which tariff shall contain the following provisions:

14 (1) The owner/operator of an energy storage system shall be compensated one hundred and
15 eighty-five dollars per nameplate kilowatt capacity (\$185/kW) per year for a system no greater than
16 five megawatts (5 MW) in size and connected to a constrained feeder. This tariff shall be effective
17 until one hundred megawatts (100 MW) of energy storage systems have been connected to
18 constrained feeders at which point the commission may extend the tariff, revise the tariff or
19 discontinue the tariff. The tariff shall provide for this compensation for ten (10) years following the
20 energy storage system's receipt of authorization to interconnect.

21 (2) The tariff may require that the energy storage system discharge at certain times during
22 the day and at certain times during the year to maximize the benefits to the grid. The tariff may not
23 require systems to discharge more than seventy (70) times per year. The owners/operators of the
24 energy storage system shall pay the G-32 rate (or, if the G-32 rate is discontinued, the most
25 comparable rate class then existing) when charging. The tariff may provide for financial penalties
26 for energy storage systems failing to comply with the discharging requirements.

27 (3) The tariff shall provide that the determination of whether an energy storage system is
28 proposed to be connected to a constrained feeder shall be made when the owner/operator of the
29 energy storage system files its interconnection application with the electric distribution company
30 and the energy storage system shall not lose eligibility for this tariff program following the
31 eligibility determination and for ten (10) years after the receipt of authorization to interconnect.

32 (4) The tariff shall provide for the execution of a contract between the owner/operator of
33 the energy storage system and the electric distribution company reflecting the operational and
34 compensation terms of the energy storage system.

1 (5) The tariff may contain any other provisions which are reasonable and necessary to
2 facilitate a tariff program on the terms set forth in subsections (2)(b)(1) through (2)(b)(4) of this
3 section.

4 **39-33-3. Interconnection.**

5 ~~(a) No later than September 1, 2024, the commission shall commence a process, which~~
6 ~~includes stakeholder engagement, to adopt a framework for an interconnection tariff for energy~~
7 ~~storage systems connected to the electric distribution system that recognizes the flexible operating~~
8 ~~characteristics of energy storage systems.~~

9 ~~(b) Following the public utilities commission's adoption of a framework, which shall be~~
10 ~~completed no later than May 1, 2025, each electric distribution company as defined in § 39-1-2 that~~
11 ~~has greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers shall file a proposed energy storage~~
12 ~~system interconnection tariff for review and approval in a contested proceeding.~~

13 No later than September 30, 2026, each electric distribution company as defined in § 39-
14 1-2 that has greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers shall file a proposed energy
15 storage system interconnection tariff for review and approval by the commission in a contested
16 proceeding. The tariff shall regulate the interconnection of energy storage systems in a manner
17 commensurate with the manner in which the Narragansett Electric Company Standards for
18 Connecting Distributed Generation (R.I.P.U.C. No. 2258) regulates distributed generation. The
19 tariff may contain provisions which are reasonable and necessary to regulate interconnection of
20 energy storage systems and, more specifically, the tariff may address concepts such as
21 import/export capacity and operating profiles and schedules.

22 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-33 of the General Laws entitled "Energy Storage Systems Act" is
23 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

24 **39-33-6. Legislative purpose.**

25 The purpose of this chapter is to facilitate and promote the installation of energy storage
26 systems in the State of Rhode Island. Energy storage systems are capable of delivering significant
27 benefits to the electric power system. Energy storage systems can reduce the market price for
28 electricity, improve power quality by charging and discharging as needed, avoid the need for new
29 capacity investments, and supply backup power during grid outages.

30 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS
ACT

1 This act would amend the Energy Storage Act of 2024 to require that the electric
2 distribution company and the public utilities commission promulgate tariffs to address
3 interconnection of energy storage systems and to provide compensation for at least one hundred
4 megawatts (100 MW) of energy storage systems sited in the state.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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