

2025 -- H 5583

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Introduced By: Representatives Fascia, Place, Chippendale, Nardone, Paplauskas, and  
Quattrocchi

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 45-24 of the General Laws entitled "Zoning Ordinances" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **45-24-46.6. Utility scale solar energy projects.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the development of utility  
5 scale solar projects shall be limited to projects where the free-standing solar energy structure is on  
6 property where the structure is providing energy to an urban area of residential properties, a  
7 commercial property or otherwise occupying other developed accessory portions of a residential or  
8 commercial property to include, but not be limited to, roof tops, parking lots and developed  
9 property.

10 (b) Forested land, farmland, undeveloped property consisting of one acre or more and other  
11 rural areas of land shall not be utilized for utility scale solar projects.

12 (c) For purposes of this section "a utility scale solar project" means a project that produces  
13 ten megawatts (10 MW) or more of energy, or produces electricity for sale pursuant to the  
14 provisions of chapter 26.4 of title 39.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would limit where utility scale solar projects can be developed to projects where  
2 the free-standing solar energy structure is on property where the structure is providing energy to an  
3 urban area of residential properties, a commercial property or otherwise occupying other developed  
4 accessory portions of a residential or commercial property. Development in forested and other rural  
5 areas of land would be prohibited.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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