

2026 -- H 7182

=====
LC003627
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Introduced By: Representatives Fascia, Chippendale, Quattrocchi, Santucci, Place, Perez,
and Fellela
Date Introduced: January 21, 2026
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.

=====
LC003627
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

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.

=====
LC003627
=====