

2026 -- S 2521

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LC004308
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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 -- RENEWABLE ENERGY
STANDARD

Introduced By: Senators Patalano, Dimitri, Thompson, Quezada, Raptakis, Famiglietti,
Appollonio, E Morgan, Tikoian, and Burke

Date Introduced: February 13, 2026

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-26-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-26 entitled "Renewable
2 Energy Standard" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-26-4. Renewable energy standard.**

4 (a) Starting in compliance year 2007, all obligated entities shall obtain at least three percent
5 (3%) of the electricity they sell at retail to Rhode Island end-use customers, adjusted for electric
6 line losses, from eligible renewable energy resources, escalating, according to the following
7 schedule:

8 (1) At least three percent (3%) of retail electricity sales in compliance year 2007;

9 (2) An additional one-half of one percent (0.5%) of retail electricity sales in each of the
10 following compliance years 2008, 2009, 2010;

11 (3) An additional one percent (1%) of retail electricity sales in each of the following
12 compliance years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, provided that the commission has determined the
13 adequacy, or potential adequacy, of renewable energy supplies to meet these percentage
14 requirements;

15 (4) An additional one and one-half percent (1.5%) of retail electricity sales in each of the
16 following compliance years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022;

17 (5) [Deleted by P.L. 2016, ch. 144, § 1 and P.L. 2016, ch. 155, § 1.]

18 (6) An additional four percent (4%) of retail electricity sales in 2023;

1 (7) An additional five percent (5%) of retail electricity sales in 2024;
2 (8) An additional six percent (6%) of retail electricity sales in ~~2025~~ 2036;
3 (9) An additional seven percent (7%) of retail electricity sales in ~~2026~~ 2037 and ~~2027~~ 2038;
4 (10) An additional seven and one-half percent (7.5%) of retail electricity sales in ~~2028~~
5 2039;
6 (11) An additional eight percent (8%) of retail electricity sales in ~~2029~~ 2040;
7 (12) An additional eight and one-half percent (8.5%) of retail electricity sales in ~~2030~~ 2041;
8 (13) An additional nine percent (9%) of retail electricity sales in ~~2031~~ 2042; and
9 (14) An additional nine and one-half percent (9.5%) of retail electricity sales in ~~2032~~ 2043
10 and ~~2033~~ 2044 to achieve the goal that one hundred percent (100%) of Rhode Island's electricity
11 demand is from renewable energy by ~~2033~~ 2044 and each year thereafter.

12 (b) For each obligated entity and in each compliance year, the amount of retail electricity
13 sales used to meet obligations under this statute that are derived from existing renewable energy
14 resources shall not exceed two percent (2%) of total retail electricity sales.

15 (c) The minimum renewable energy percentages set forth in subsection (a) shall be met for
16 each electrical energy product offered to end-use customers, in a manner that ensures that the
17 amount of renewable energy of end-use customers voluntarily purchasing renewable energy is not
18 counted toward meeting such percentages. Notwithstanding the foregoing, municipalities engaged
19 in aggregation pursuant to § 39-3-1.2 may include in their aggregation plan terms that would allow
20 voluntary renewable energy products to be counted toward meeting such percentages. In 2024, the
21 commission, with input from the office of energy resources, division of public utilities and carriers,
22 obligated entities, other market participants, and the public, shall assess the impact of allowing
23 voluntary renewable energy purchases to be counted toward meeting the annual percentages. The
24 commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, speaker of
25 the house, and senate president no later than September 1, 2024.

26 (d) To the extent consistent with the requirements of this chapter, compliance with the
27 renewable energy standard may be demonstrated through procurement of NE-GIS certificates
28 relating to generating units certified by the commission as using eligible renewable energy sources,
29 as evidenced by reports issued by the NE-GIS administrator. Procurement of NE-GIS certificates
30 from off-grid and customer-sited generation facilities, verified by the commission as eligible
31 renewable energy resources, may also be used to demonstrate compliance. With the exception of
32 contracts for generation supply entered into prior to 2002, initial title to NE-GIS certificates from
33 off-grid and customer-sited generation facilities and from all other eligible renewable energy
34 resources, shall accrue to the owner of such a generation facility, unless such title has been

1 explicitly deemed transferred pursuant to contract or regulatory order.

2 (e) In lieu of providing NE-GIS certificates pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, an
3 obligated entity may also discharge all or any portion of its compliance obligations by making an
4 alternative compliance payment to the renewable energy development fund established pursuant to
5 § 39-26-7.

6 (f) Retail electricity sales pursuant to a nonregulated power producer's supply contract that
7 was executed prior to July 1, 2022, shall be required to obtain an additional one and one-half percent
8 (1.5%) of retail electricity sales each year and are exempted from the requirements of subsections
9 (a)(6) through (a)(14) of this section until the end date of the term of the nonregulated power
10 producer's supply contract.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RENEWABLE ENERGY
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- 1 This act would amend the renewable energy standard obligations of entities to sell at retail
- 2 to Rhode Island customers.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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