

SENATE BILL NO. 659

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Hanger)

A BILL to convene stakeholder workgroups to evaluate shared solar programs for Phase I Utilities and electric cooperatives in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The State Corporation Commission shall convene a stakeholder workgroup to evaluate shared solar programs for Phase I Utilities, including those utilities subject to the exemption in subsection G of § 56-580 of the Code of Virginia. The stakeholder workgroup shall include representatives from the Coalition for Community Solar Access, Phase I Utilities, the Department of Energy, low-income community solar advocates, consumer protection advocates, solar advocacy organizations, environmental advocacy organizations, the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association and other solar industry and shared solar stakeholders, and community advocacy groups. The stakeholder workgroup shall permit remote or electronic participation in meetings, which may be held at any location in the Commonwealth. The staff of the State Corporation Commission (the Commission) shall facilitate and document the proceedings of the stakeholder workgroup and submit a written report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Commerce and Energy and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor no later than November 30, 2022, and make copies of the report publicly available on the Commission's website at the same time as submission to the House and Senate Committees.

Additionally, the Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives and the Coalition for Community Solar Access shall jointly convene a stakeholder process to evaluate shared solar programs for electric cooperatives. This stakeholder process shall include representatives from electric distribution cooperatives, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, the Department of Energy, low-income community solar advocates, consumer protection advocates, solar advocacy organizations, environmental

27 advocacy organizations, the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association and other solar industry and shared
28 solar stakeholders, agricultural associations, and staff of the Commission. This stakeholder process shall
29 permit remote or electronic participation in meetings, which may be held at any location in the
30 Commonwealth. The Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives and the
31 Coalition for Community Solar Access shall facilitate and document the proceedings of the stakeholder
32 workgroup and submit a written report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Commerce and Energy
33 and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor no later than November 30, 2022, and make copies
34 of the report publicly available on the Commission's website at the same time as submission to the House
35 and Senate Committees.

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