

ASSEMBLY, No. 3429

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Directs BPU to conduct study to determine whether deployment of microgrids and generators will reduce length of power outages.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT directing the Board of Public Utilities to conduct a study to
 2 determine whether the deployment of microgrids and generators
 3 will reduce the length of power outages.

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 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 6 *of New Jersey:*

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 8 1. a. The Board of Public Utilities shall study, prepare, and
 9 submit, within six months of the effective date of this act, to the
 10 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
 11 19.1), to the Legislature, a written report that shall make findings
 12 and recommendations concerning whether the utilization of
 13 microgrids and the deployment of electric generators will assist in
 14 reducing the length of long-term power outages in this State. The
 15 board's report shall also provide recommendations for
 16 improvements to the resilience and reliability of the State's electric
 17 distribution system.

18 b. In conducting the study, the board shall:

19 (1) compare the general performance of this State's electric
 20 distribution system as compared to that of other states;

21 (2) assess the impact of the utilization of microgrids and the
 22 deployment of electric generators on long-term power outages in
 23 other states;

24 (3) consult with relevant persons and public and private entities
 25 in this State and other states that have utilized microgrids during
 26 power outages;

27 (4) consult with relevant electric public utilities in this State and
 28 other states that have deployed electric generators to communities
 29 during power outages; and

30 (5) consider the cost to ratepayers, municipalities, electric
 31 public utilities, and the State associated with the implementation of
 32 the findings and recommendations submitted pursuant to subsection
 33 a. of this section.

34 c. For the purposes of this act, "microgrid" means a group of
 35 interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly
 36 defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity
 37 with respect to the electric grid, which can connect and disconnect
 38 from the electric grid to enable it to operate both connected to, or
 39 independent of, the electric grid.

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 41 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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46 This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to study,
 47 prepare, and submit, within six months of the enactment of the bill,
 48 to the Governor and to the Legislature a written report that is to

1 contain findings and recommendations concerning whether the
2 utilization of microgrids and the deployment of electric generators
3 will assist in reducing the length of long-term power outages in this
4 State. The BPU's report is to also provide recommendations for
5 improvements to the resilience and reliability of the State's electric
6 distribution system.

7 In conducting the study, the BPU is to: 1) compare the general
8 performance of this State's electric distribution system as compared
9 to that of other states; 2) assess the impact of the utilization of
10 microgrids and the deployment of electric generators on long-term
11 power outages in other states; 3) consult with relevant persons and
12 public and private entities in this State and other states that have
13 utilized microgrids during power outages; 4) consult with relevant
14 electric public utilities in this State and other states that have
15 deployed electric generators to communities during power outages;
16 5) and consider the cost to ratepayers, municipalities, electric public
17 utilities, and the State associated with the implementation of the
18 findings and recommendations submitted pursuant to this bill.

19 The bill defines "microgrid" as a group of interconnected loads
20 and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical
21 boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to
22 the electric grid, which can connect and disconnect from the electric
23 grid to enable it to operate both connected to, or independent of, the
24 electric grid.