

ASSEMBLY, No. 3576

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires new photovoltaic installations to comply with most recent National Electric Code standards for rapid shutdown of photovoltaic arrays.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning standards for photovoltaic installations and
2 supplementing P.L.2009, c.33 (C.52:27D-141.1 et seq.).

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Legislature finds and declares:

8 (1) Fire safety is a vital goal with respect to the adoption of
9 photovoltaic power to combat global warming by reducing carbon
10 emissions throughout the State;

11 (2) Firefighters in New Jersey have faced electrical shock peril
12 when encountering photovoltaic arrays, especially rooftop
13 installations, at fire sites;

14 (3) Technologies exist today that are capable of providing
15 enhanced fire safety in photovoltaic systems at a low enough cost to
16 the developer or property owner that a transition to them is actually
17 cost-effective without regard to firefighter safety concerns;

18 (4) Technological standards to enhance the rapid shutdown of
19 photovoltaic arrays have been included in the 2017 edition of NFPA
20 70, the National Electric Code; and

21 (5) It is therefore reasonable, as a matter of public policy in
22 order to enhance firefighter safety, for the State to require
23 compliance with the most recent national safety standards
24 concerning the rapid shutdown of new photovoltaic array
25 installations.

26 b. In addition to standards adopted pursuant to Section 7 of P.L.
27 2009, c.33 (C.52:27D-141.7), the Department of Community
28 Affairs shall issue regulations, to be effective on the first day of the
29 fifth month next following the date of enactment of this section,
30 requiring all applications for electrical permits for photovoltaic
31 system installations, submitted on or after that date, to comply with
32 NFPA 70 (the National Electric Code) Article 690.12(b)(2),
33 notwithstanding that the compliance requirements for rooftop
34 photovoltaic installations in the National Electrical Code itself is
35 delayed until January 1, 2019.

36

37 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

38

39

40 STATEMENT

41

42 Rooftop photovoltaic arrays, which provide electricity to
43 property owners from sunlight, are becoming popular as people
44 seek ways to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce their energy
45 bills. These photovoltaic arrays may pose an electrocution hazard
46 to firefighters when responding to a fire incident, especially if the
47 firefighters are unaware of the rooftop installation. Technical
48 standards have recently been promulgated, in the 2017 edition of

1 NFPA 70, the National Electric Code, for the rapid shutdown of
2 photovoltaic array installations. Compliance with these new
3 standards will greatly reduce the risk of electrocution of firefighters
4 responding to a fire scene. This bill instructs the Department of
5 Community Affairs to issue regulations requiring all applications
6 for electrical permits for photovoltaic system installations,
7 submitted on or after the first day of the fifth month next following
8 enactment, to comply with the new rapid shutdown standards (even
9 though the national code delays implementation of those standards
10 until January 1, 2019).