



Ohio House Bill 197 (Hoops; Ray)
Ohio Community Solar Pilot Program
Introduced June 6, 2023

Legislation Overview: To establish an Ohio community solar pilot program for the benefit of customers in the state while establishing program evaluations to ensure guaranteed savings for participants.

Community Solar Overview:



Graphic provided by Nexamp

Community Solar Pilot Program

- Small-scale solar installations that community members can subscribe to and save money on their monthly electricity bill via a credit set by the PUCO for their portion of the installation's generation. (More details below)
 - Installations are typically 5-10 megawatts (MW) in size and need around 15-30 acres of space.
- The pilot program is capped at 1750MW.
 - 1000MW *may* be developed on either distressed or non-distressed sites.
 - 500MW *must* be developed on distressed sites.
 - 250MW *must* be developed on distressed sites in the Appalachian region identified under HB 197 as the 'Solar Development Program.'
- Certified MW are allocated proportionally based on the size of each utility's retail electric sales.

Community Solar Facility Sizes

- Distressed Sites – Up to 20MW
- Non-Distressed Sites – Up to 10MW



Bill Credits

- Non-Distressed Site Program: Subscriber shall be eligible for bill credits from EDU for the proportion of output equal to the utility's retail rate per customer class minus utility distribution service charge.
- Distressed Site Program/Appalachian Program: Subscriber shall receive bill credit equal to the utility's retail rate per customer class.
- PUCO Bill Credit Development: Directs PUCO to establish reasonable, financeable bill credit by considering factors such as costs and benefits of the program, proposed rules, fees, and charges, and any other items deemed necessary.

Subscribers

- May not subscribe to a share exceeding 100% of the subscriber's average annual electricity usage.
- Subscriptions with less than 100% of the subscriber's monthly electric usage may shop for the remaining electric usage.

Interconnection

- EDU must interconnect a community solar facility to a distribution system within the territory.

Distressed Sites

- Community Solar organization shall be eligible to receive DOD brownfield remediation grant for related construction and remediation costs.

PUCO Working Group

- Directs the PUCO to establish an ongoing stakeholder working group for pilot program rule development.
 - o Members include EDUs, consumer advocates, community solar industry representatives, and other necessary stakeholders.
- Pilot program rules shall be promulgated not later than 6 months after the effective date of the bill.

Electric Distribution Utilities (EDUs)

- May recover reasonable costs associated with pilot program administration.
- Shall not recover costs through cross-subsidization of customer classes.
- Publish new tariffs or update existing tariffs within 9 months of the bill's effective date