

48:3-87.11
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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LAWS OF: 2025 **CHAPTER:** 135

NJSA: 48:3-87.11 Requires BPU to revise community solar program targets.

BILL NO: S4530 (Substituted for A5768 (2R))

SPONSOR(S) Gopal, Vin and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 5/29/2025

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** --

SENATE: Environment & Energy

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 06/30/2025

SENATE: 06/30/2025

DATE OF APPROVAL: 8/22/2025

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (S4530 Aa (1R) enacted)

ADVANCE LAW Yes

PAMPHLET LAW Yes

S4530

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

REPRINT(S): Yes Assembly 6/30/25 1R

TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes Environment & Energy

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A5768 (2R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

REPRINT(S):	Yes	ABU 6/26/25 1R ABU 6/27/25 2R
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TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	Yes	Telecommunications & Utilities Budget 06/26/2025 and 06/27/2025
	SENATE:	No	

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
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LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
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VETO MESSAGE:	No
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GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
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LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:	Yes
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FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
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HEARINGS:	No
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NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes
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Biryukov, Nikita, (2025, August 23). Star-Ledger, The (Newark, NJ), "Gov. acts to amp up renewable energy", Available from NewsBank: America's News: <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=image/v2%3A166DFC6FDF7711A8%40NewsBank-1A2A1CBB8FC382CD%402460911-1A2A4C45CE5EF2FF%402-1A2A4C45CE5EF2FF%40>. © Copyright 2025 The Star-Ledger. All Rights Reserved.

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 135, *approved August 22, 2025*
Senate, No. 4530 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning solar energy and amending P.L.2018, c.17.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 5 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.11) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 5. a. No later than 210 days after the date of enactment of
9 P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.8 et al.), the Board of Public Utilities
10 shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
11 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations
12 establishing a “Community Solar Energy Pilot Program” to permit
13 customers of an electric public utility to participate in a solar energy
14 project that is remotely located from their properties but is within
15 their electric public utility service territory to allow for a credit to
16 the customer's utility bill equal to the electricity generated that is
17 attributed to the customer's participation in the solar energy project.

18 b. The rules and regulations developed by the board shall
19 establish:

20 (1) a capacity limit for individual solar energy projects to a
21 maximum of five megawatts per project;

22 (2) an annual capacity limit for all solar energy projects under
23 the pilot program;

24 (3) geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
25 participating customers;

26 (4) a minimum number of participating customers for each solar
27 energy project;

28 (5) the value of the credit on each participating customer's bill;

29 (6) standards to limit the land use impact of a solar energy
30 project as required in subsection r. of section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23
31 (C.48:3-87);

32 (7) the provision of access to solar energy projects for low and
33 moderate income customers;

34 (8) standards to ensure the ability of residential and commercial
35 customers to participate in solar energy projects, including
36 residential customers in multifamily housing;

37 (9) standards for connection to the distribution system of an
38 electric public utility; and

39 (10) provisions to minimize impacts to the distribution system
40 of an electric public utility.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted June 30, 2025.

1 c. The board shall make available on its Internet website
2 information on solar energy projects whose owners are seeking
3 participants.

4 d. The board shall establish standards and an application
5 process for owners of solar energy projects who wish to be included
6 in the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The standards for
7 the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program shall include, but need
8 not be limited to, a verification process to ensure that the solar
9 energy projects are producing an amount of energy that is greater
10 than or equal to the amount of energy that is being credited to its
11 participating customer's electric utility bills pursuant to subsection
12 b. of this section, and consumer protection measures. Projects
13 approved by the board shall have at least two participating
14 customers.

15 The board may restrict qualified solar energy projects to those
16 located on brownfields, landfills, areas designated in need of
17 redevelopment, in underserved communities, or on commercial
18 rooftops.

19 e. Subject to review by the board, an electric public utility shall
20 be entitled to full and timely cost recovery for all costs incurred in
21 implementation and compliance with this section.

22 f. No later than 36 months after adoption of the rules and
23 regulations required pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the
24 board shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
25 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
26 seq.), to convert the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program to a
27 permanent program. The board shall adopt rules and regulations for
28 the permanent program that set forth standards for projects owned
29 by ¹electric public utilities, ¹ special purpose entities ¹ and
30 nonprofit entities. The rules and regulations shall also:

31 (1) limit the capacity of each solar energy project to a maximum
32 of five megawatts;

33 (2) (a) establish a goal for the conditional registration of 225
34 megawatts of solar energy projects prior to June 1, 2024, with an
35 additional 275 megawatts prior to June 1, 2024 if qualified
36 applications exceed 225 megawatts, and an additional 250
37 megawatts prior to June 1, 2025 if qualified applications exceed 500
38 megawatts **],** and at least an additional 150 megawatts per year
39 thereafter, taking into account any changes to the SREC program**];**
40 and

41 (b) stipulate that the board shall open registration, by ¹August
42 October¹ 1, 2025, for 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects in
43 addition to the conditional registration goals already established
44 pursuant to this paragraph. The board shall accept and approve
45 registrations pursuant to this subparagraph until the earlier of
46 December 31, 2029 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar

1 energy projects are completely registered. The board shall set
2 SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as
3 appropriate to enable the complete registration of 3,000 megawatts
4 of solar energy projects by December 31, 2029;

5 (3) set geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
6 participating customers;

7 (4) provide for a minimum number of participating customers
8 for each solar energy project;

9 (5) require the provision of access to solar energy projects for
10 low and moderate income customers;

11 (6) establish standards to ensure the ability of residential and
12 commercial customers to participate in solar energy projects,
13 including residential customers in multifamily housing;

14 (7) establish a method for determining the value of the credit on
15 each participating customer's bill;

16 (8) establish timeframes for the credit available to the customer;

17 (9) establish standards and methods to verify solar electric
18 energy generation on a monthly basis for a solar energy project;

19 (10) establish standards consistent with the land use provisions
20 for solar energy projects as provided in subsections r., s., and t. of
21 section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-87);

22 (11) establish standards, fees, and uniform procedures for solar
23 energy projects to be connected to the distribution system of an
24 electric public utility;

25 (12) minimize impacts to the distribution system of an electric
26 public utility;

27 (13) require monthly reporting requirements for the operators of
28 solar energy projects to the electric public utility, project customers,
29 and the board;

30 (14) require reporting by the electric public utility to the operator
31 of a solar energy project on the value of credits to the participating
32 customer's bills;

33 (15) require transferability, portability, and buy-out provisions
34 for customers who participate in community solar energy projects;

35 (16) establish requirements and standards that provide for the
36 auditing and enforcement of a solar energy project's compliance
37 with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations
38 adopted pursuant thereto, including the project's compliance with
39 commitments related to providing access to solar energy projects to
40 low- and moderate-income customers and bill crediting; and

41 (17) allow, in a form and manner to be determined by the board,
42 low- and moderate-income residential customers to self-attest to the
43 customer's income as an acceptable income verification method for
44 participation in a solar energy project.

45 g. As used in this section:

46 "Solar energy project" means a system containing one or more
47 solar panels and associated equipment.

1 “Solar panel” means an elevated panel or plate, or a canopy or
2 array thereof, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce
3 electric power, and is approved by the board to be included in the
4 Community Solar Energy Pilot Program.

5 “Solar power” includes flat plate, focusing solar collectors, or
6 photovoltaic solar cells and excludes the base or foundation of the
7 panel, plate, canopy, or array.
8 (cf: P.L.2023, c.200, s.1)

9

10 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

14

15 Requires BPU to revise community solar program targets.

CHAPTER 135

AN ACT concerning solar energy and amending P.L.2018, c.17.

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

1. Section 5 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.11) is amended to read as follows:

C.48:3-87.11 "Community Solar Energy Pilot Program"; rules, regulations.

5. a. No later than 210 days after the date of enactment of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.8 et al.), the Board of Public Utilities shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations establishing a "Community Solar Energy Pilot Program" to permit customers of an electric public utility to participate in a solar energy project that is remotely located from their properties but is within their electric public utility service territory to allow for a credit to the customer's utility bill equal to the electricity generated that is attributed to the customer's participation in the solar energy project.

b. The rules and regulations developed by the board shall establish:

(1) a capacity limit for individual solar energy projects to a maximum of five megawatts per project;

(2) an annual capacity limit for all solar energy projects under the pilot program;

(3) geographic limitations for solar energy projects and participating customers;

(4) a minimum number of participating customers for each solar energy project;

(5) the value of the credit on each participating customer's bill;

(6) standards to limit the land use impact of a solar energy project as required in subsection r. of section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-87);

(7) the provision of access to solar energy projects for low and moderate income customers;

(8) standards to ensure the ability of residential and commercial customers to participate in solar energy projects, including residential customers in multifamily housing;

(9) standards for connection to the distribution system of an electric public utility; and

(10) provisions to minimize impacts to the distribution system of an electric public utility.

c. The board shall make available on its Internet website information on solar energy projects whose owners are seeking participants.

d. The board shall establish standards and an application process for owners of solar energy projects who wish to be included in the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The standards for the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program shall include, but need not be limited to, a verification process to ensure that the solar energy projects are producing an amount of energy that is greater than or equal to the amount of energy that is being credited to its participating customer's electric utility bills pursuant to subsection b. of this section, and consumer protection measures. Projects approved by the board shall have at least two participating customers.

The board may restrict qualified solar energy projects to those located on brownfields, landfills, areas designated in need of redevelopment, in underserved communities, or on commercial rooftops.

e. Subject to review by the board, an electric public utility shall be entitled to full and timely cost recovery for all costs incurred in implementation and compliance with this section.

f. No later than 36 months after adoption of the rules and regulations required pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the board shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to convert the

Community Solar Energy Pilot Program to a permanent program. The board shall adopt rules and regulations for the permanent program that set forth standards for projects owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit entities. The rules and regulations shall also:

- (1) limit the capacity of each solar energy project to a maximum of five megawatts;
- (2) (a) establish a goal for the conditional registration of 225 megawatts of solar energy projects prior to June 1, 2024, with an additional 275 megawatts prior to June 1, 2024 if qualified applications exceed 225 megawatts, and an additional 250 megawatts prior to June 1, 2025 if qualified applications exceed 500 megawatts; and
(b) stipulate that the board shall open registration, by October 1, 2025, for 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects in addition to the conditional registration goals already established pursuant to this paragraph. The board shall accept and approve registrations pursuant to this subparagraph until the earlier of December 31, 2029 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects are completely registered. The board shall set SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the complete registration of 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects by December 31, 2029;
- (3) set geographic limitations for solar energy projects and participating customers;
- (4) provide for a minimum number of participating customers for each solar energy project;
- (5) require the provision of access to solar energy projects for low and moderate income customers;
- (6) establish standards to ensure the ability of residential and commercial customers to participate in solar energy projects, including residential customers in multifamily housing;
- (7) establish a method for determining the value of the credit on each participating customer's bill;
- (8) establish timeframes for the credit available to the customer;
- (9) establish standards and methods to verify solar electric energy generation on a monthly basis for a solar energy project;
- (10) establish standards consistent with the land use provisions for solar energy projects as provided in subsections r., s., and t. of section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-87);
- (11) establish standards, fees, and uniform procedures for solar energy projects to be connected to the distribution system of an electric public utility;
- (12) minimize impacts to the distribution system of an electric public utility;
- (13) require monthly reporting requirements for the operators of solar energy projects to the electric public utility, project customers, and the board;
- (14) require reporting by the electric public utility to the operator of a solar energy project on the value of credits to the participating customer's bills;
- (15) require transferability, portability, and buy-out provisions for customers who participate in community solar energy projects;
- (16) establish requirements and standards that provide for the auditing and enforcement of a solar energy project's compliance with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, including the project's compliance with commitments related to providing access to solar energy projects to low- and moderate-income customers and bill crediting; and
- (17) allow, in a form and manner to be determined by the board, low- and moderate-income residential customers to self-attest to the customer's income as an acceptable income verification method for participation in a solar energy project.

g. As used in this section:

“Solar energy project” means a system containing one or more solar panels and associated equipment.

“Solar panel” means an elevated panel or plate, or a canopy or array thereof, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce electric power, and is approved by the board to be included in the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program.

“Solar power” includes flat plate, focusing solar collectors, or photovoltaic solar cells and excludes the base or foundation of the panel, plate, canopy, or array.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 22, 2025.

SENATE, No. 4530

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 29, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman LUANNE M. PETERPAUL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman MARGIE DONLON, M.D.

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

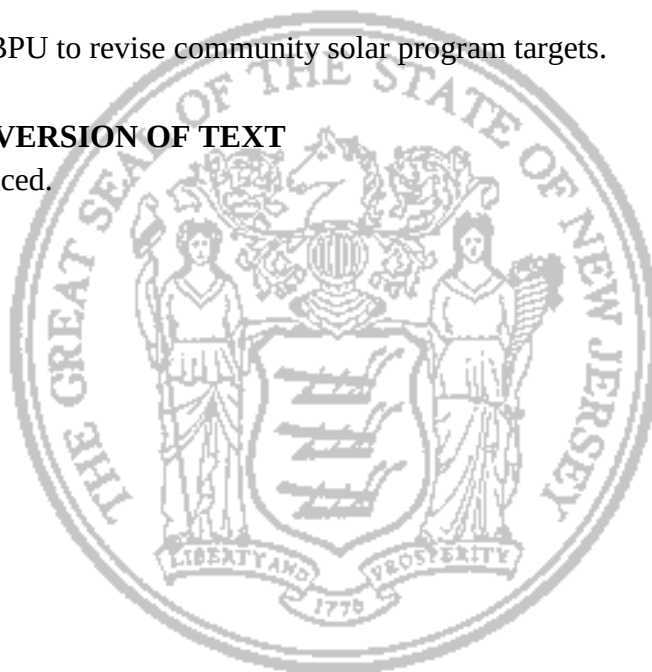
Senators Greenstein, Singleton, Assemblywoman Katz, Assemblymen Venezia and Bailey

SYNOPSIS

Requires BPU to revise community solar program targets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning solar energy and amending P.L.2018, c.17.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 5 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.11) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 5. a. No later than 210 days after the date of enactment of
9 P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.8 et al.), the Board of Public Utilities
10 shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
11 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations
12 establishing a “Community Solar Energy Pilot Program” to permit
13 customers of an electric public utility to participate in a solar energy
14 project that is remotely located from their properties but is within
15 their electric public utility service territory to allow for a credit to
16 the customer's utility bill equal to the electricity generated that is
17 attributed to the customer's participation in the solar energy project.

18 b. The rules and regulations developed by the board shall
19 establish:

20 (1) a capacity limit for individual solar energy projects to a
21 maximum of five megawatts per project;

22 (2) an annual capacity limit for all solar energy projects under
23 the pilot program;

24 (3) geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
25 participating customers;

26 (4) a minimum number of participating customers for each solar
27 energy project;

28 (5) the value of the credit on each participating customer's bill;

29 (6) standards to limit the land use impact of a solar energy
30 project as required in subsection r. of section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23
31 (C.48:3-87);

32 (7) the provision of access to solar energy projects for low and
33 moderate income customers;

34 (8) standards to ensure the ability of residential and commercial
35 customers to participate in solar energy projects, including
36 residential customers in multifamily housing;

37 (9) standards for connection to the distribution system of an
38 electric public utility; and

39 (10) provisions to minimize impacts to the distribution system
40 of an electric public utility.

41 c. The board shall make available on its Internet website
42 information on solar energy projects whose owners are seeking
43 participants.

44 d. The board shall establish standards and an application
45 process for owners of solar energy projects who wish to be included
46 in the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The standards for

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program shall include, but need
2 not be limited to, a verification process to ensure that the solar
3 energy projects are producing an amount of energy that is greater
4 than or equal to the amount of energy that is being credited to its
5 participating customer's electric utility bills pursuant to subsection
6 b. of this section, and consumer protection measures. Projects
7 approved by the board shall have at least two participating
8 customers.

9 The board may restrict qualified solar energy projects to those
10 located on brownfields, landfills, areas designated in need of
11 redevelopment, in underserved communities, or on commercial
12 rooftops.

13 e. Subject to review by the board, an electric public utility shall
14 be entitled to full and timely cost recovery for all costs incurred in
15 implementation and compliance with this section.

16 f. No later than 36 months after adoption of the rules and
17 regulations required pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the
18 board shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
19 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
20 seq.), to convert the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program to a
21 permanent program. The board shall adopt rules and regulations for
22 the permanent program that set forth standards for projects owned
23 by electric public utilities, special purpose entities, and nonprofit
24 entities. The rules and regulations shall also:

25 (1) limit the capacity of each solar energy project to a maximum
26 of five megawatts;

27 (2) (a) establish a goal for the conditional registration of 225
28 megawatts of solar energy projects prior to June 1, 2024, with an
29 additional 275 megawatts prior to June 1, 2024 if qualified
30 applications exceed 225 megawatts, and an additional 250
31 megawatts prior to June 1, 2025 if qualified applications exceed 500
32 megawatts], and at least an additional 150 megawatts per year
33 thereafter, taking into account any changes to the SREC program];
34 and

35 (b) stipulate that the board shall open registration, by August 1,
36 2025, for 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects in addition to
37 the conditional registration goals already established pursuant to
38 this paragraph. The board shall accept and approve registrations
39 pursuant to this subparagraph until the earlier of December 31, 2029
40 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects are
41 completely registered. The board shall set SREC-II levels and
42 guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the
43 complete registration of 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects
44 by December 31, 2029;

45 (3) set geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
46 participating customers;

- 1 (4) provide for a minimum number of participating customers
- 2 for each solar energy project;
- 3 (5) require the provision of access to solar energy projects for
- 4 low and moderate income customers;
- 5 (6) establish standards to ensure the ability of residential and
- 6 commercial customers to participate in solar energy projects,
- 7 including residential customers in multifamily housing;
- 8 (7) establish a method for determining the value of the credit on
- 9 each participating customer's bill;
- 10 (8) establish timeframes for the credit available to the customer;
- 11 (9) establish standards and methods to verify solar electric
- 12 energy generation on a monthly basis for a solar energy project;
- 13 (10) establish standards consistent with the land use provisions
- 14 for solar energy projects as provided in subsections r., s., and t. of
- 15 section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-87);
- 16 (11) establish standards, fees, and uniform procedures for solar
- 17 energy projects to be connected to the distribution system of an
- 18 electric public utility;
- 19 (12) minimize impacts to the distribution system of an electric
- 20 public utility;
- 21 (13) require monthly reporting requirements for the operators of
- 22 solar energy projects to the electric public utility, project customers,
- 23 and the board;
- 24 (14) require reporting by the electric public utility to the operator
- 25 of a solar energy project on the value of credits to the participating
- 26 customer's bills;
- 27 (15) require transferability, portability, and buy-out provisions
- 28 for customers who participate in community solar energy projects;
- 29 (16) establish requirements and standards that provide for the
- 30 auditing and enforcement of a solar energy project's compliance
- 31 with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations
- 32 adopted pursuant thereto, including the project's compliance with
- 33 commitments related to providing access to solar energy projects to
- 34 low- and moderate-income customers and bill crediting; and
- 35 (17) allow, in a form and manner to be determined by the board,
- 36 low- and moderate-income residential customers to self-attest to the
- 37 customer's income as an acceptable income verification method for
- 38 participation in a solar energy project.
- 39 g. As used in this section:
- 40 "Solar energy project" means a system containing one or more
- 41 solar panels and associated equipment.
- 42 "Solar panel" means an elevated panel or plate, or a canopy or
- 43 array thereof, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce
- 44 electric power, and is approved by the board to be included in the
- 45 Community Solar Energy Pilot Program.

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10

11 This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (board) to open
12 registration by August 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of
13 community solar projects. The bill requires the board to accept and
14 approve registrations until the earlier of December 31, 2029 or such
15 time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects are completely
16 registered. The board shall set SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill
17 credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the complete
18 registration of the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects by
19 December 31, 2029. The bill would also remove the 150 megawatt
20 annual goal under the community solar program.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 4530

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 29, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman LUANNE M. PETERPAUL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman MARGIE DONLON, M.D.

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

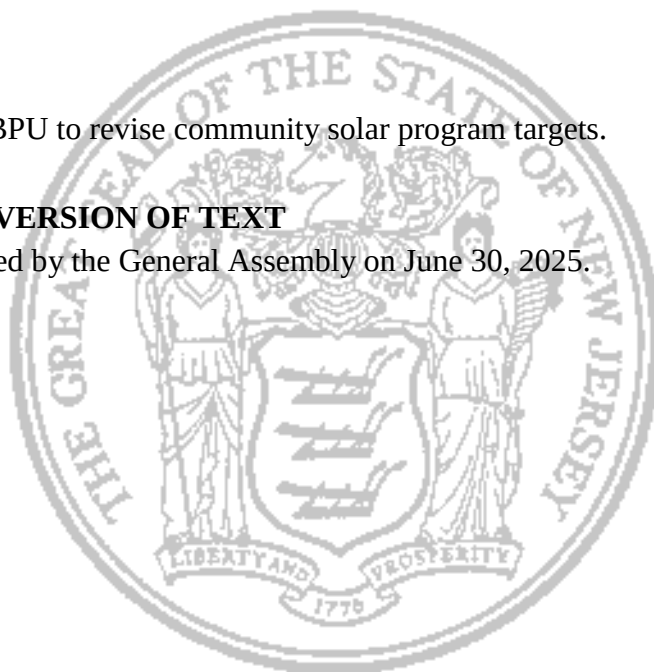
Senators Greenstein, Singleton, Assemblywoman Katz, Assemblymen Venezia and Bailey

SYNOPSIS

Requires BPU to revise community solar program targets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on June 30, 2025.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning solar energy and amending P.L.2018, c.17.

2

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15 their electric public utility service territory to allow for a credit to
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31 (C.48:3-87);

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42 information on solar energy projects whose owners are seeking
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44 d. The board shall establish standards and an application
45 process for owners of solar energy projects who wish to be included

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted June 30, 2025.

1 in the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The standards for
2 the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program shall include, but need
3 not be limited to, a verification process to ensure that the solar
4 energy projects are producing an amount of energy that is greater
5 than or equal to the amount of energy that is being credited to its
6 participating customer's electric utility bills pursuant to subsection
7 b. of this section, and consumer protection measures. Projects
8 approved by the board shall have at least two participating
9 customers.

10 The board may restrict qualified solar energy projects to those
11 located on brownfields, landfills, areas designated in need of
12 redevelopment, in underserved communities, or on commercial
13 rooftops.

14 e. Subject to review by the board, an electric public utility shall
15 be entitled to full and timely cost recovery for all costs incurred in
16 implementation and compliance with this section.

17 f. No later than 36 months after adoption of the rules and
18 regulations required pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the
19 board shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
20 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
21 seq.), to convert the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program to a
22 permanent program. The board shall adopt rules and regulations for
23 the permanent program that set forth standards for projects owned
24 by **‘[electric public utilities,]’** special purpose entities **‘[.],’** and
25 nonprofit entities. The rules and regulations shall also:

26 (1) limit the capacity of each solar energy project to a maximum
27 of five megawatts;

28 (2) (a) establish a goal for the conditional registration of 225
29 megawatts of solar energy projects prior to June 1, 2024, with an
30 additional 275 megawatts prior to June 1, 2024 if qualified
31 applications exceed 225 megawatts, and an additional 250
32 megawatts prior to June 1, 2025 if qualified applications exceed 500
33 megawatts [, and at least an additional 150 megawatts per year
34 thereafter, taking into account any changes to the SREC program];
35 and

36 (b) stipulate that the board shall open registration, by ‘[August]
37 October’ 1, 2025, for 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects in
38 addition to the conditional registration goals already established
39 pursuant to this paragraph. The board shall accept and approve
40 registrations pursuant to this subparagraph until the earlier of
41 December 31, 2029 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar
42 energy projects are completely registered. The board shall set
43 SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as
44 appropriate to enable the complete registration of 3,000 megawatts
45 of solar energy projects by December 31, 2029;

- 1 (3) set geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
- 2 participating customers;
- 3 (4) provide for a minimum number of participating customers
- 4 for each solar energy project;
- 5 (5) require the provision of access to solar energy projects for
- 6 low and moderate income customers;
- 7 (6) establish standards to ensure the ability of residential and
- 8 commercial customers to participate in solar energy projects,
- 9 including residential customers in multifamily housing;
- 10 (7) establish a method for determining the value of the credit on
- 11 each participating customer's bill;
- 12 (8) establish timeframes for the credit available to the customer;
- 13 (9) establish standards and methods to verify solar electric
- 14 energy generation on a monthly basis for a solar energy project;
- 15 (10) establish standards consistent with the land use provisions
- 16 for solar energy projects as provided in subsections r., s., and t. of
- 17 section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-87);
- 18 (11) establish standards, fees, and uniform procedures for solar
- 19 energy projects to be connected to the distribution system of an
- 20 electric public utility;
- 21 (12) minimize impacts to the distribution system of an electric
- 22 public utility;
- 23 (13) require monthly reporting requirements for the operators of
- 24 solar energy projects to the electric public utility, project customers,
- 25 and the board;
- 26 (14) require reporting by the electric public utility to the operator
- 27 of a solar energy project on the value of credits to the participating
- 28 customer's bills;
- 29 (15) require transferability, portability, and buy-out provisions
- 30 for customers who participate in community solar energy projects;
- 31 (16) establish requirements and standards that provide for the
- 32 auditing and enforcement of a solar energy project's compliance
- 33 with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations
- 34 adopted pursuant thereto, including the project's compliance with
- 35 commitments related to providing access to solar energy projects to
- 36 low- and moderate-income customers and bill crediting; and
- 37 (17) allow, in a form and manner to be determined by the board,
- 38 low- and moderate-income residential customers to self-attest to the
- 39 customer's income as an acceptable income verification method for
- 40 participation in a solar energy project.
- 41 g. As used in this section:
- 42 "Solar energy project" means a system containing one or more
- 43 solar panels and associated equipment.
- 44 "Solar panel" means an elevated panel or plate, or a canopy or
- 45 array thereof, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce

1 electric power, and is approved by the board to be included in the
2 Community Solar Energy Pilot Program.

3 “Solar power” includes flat plate, focusing solar collectors, or
4 photovoltaic solar cells and excludes the base or foundation of the
5 panel, plate, canopy, or array.

6 (cf: P.L.2023, c.200, s.1)

7

8 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4530

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 4530.

This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to open registration by August 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of community solar projects. The bill requires the BPU to accept and approve registrations until the earlier of December 31, 2029 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects are completely registered. The bill directs the BPU to set SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the complete registration of the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects by December 31, 2029. The bill would also remove the 150 megawatt annual goal for community solar project registrations that is established under current law.

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4530

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblywoman QUIJANO)

ADOPTED: JUNE 30, 2025

These floor amendments:

(1) require the Board of Public Utilities (board) to open registration for the board's solicitation of an additional 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects under the bill by October 1, 2025, rather than by August 1, 2025; and

(2) remove a provision that requires the board to adopt rules and regulations establishing standards for projects owned by electric public utilities under the permanent Community Solar Energy Program.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5768

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LUANNE M. PETERPAUL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman MARGIE DONLON, M.D.

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Katz and Assemblyman Venezia

SYNOPSIS

Requires BPU to revise community solar program targets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/19/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning solar energy and amending P.L.2018, c.17.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 5 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.11) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 5. a. No later than 210 days after the date of enactment of
9 P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.8 et al.), the Board of Public Utilities
10 shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
11 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations
12 establishing a “Community Solar Energy Pilot Program” to permit
13 customers of an electric public utility to participate in a solar energy
14 project that is remotely located from their properties but is within
15 their electric public utility service territory to allow for a credit to
16 the customer's utility bill equal to the electricity generated that is
17 attributed to the customer's participation in the solar energy project.

18 b. The rules and regulations developed by the board shall
19 establish:

20 (1) a capacity limit for individual solar energy projects to a
21 maximum of five megawatts per project;

22 (2) an annual capacity limit for all solar energy projects under
23 the pilot program;

24 (3) geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
25 participating customers;

26 (4) a minimum number of participating customers for each solar
27 energy project;

28 (5) the value of the credit on each participating customer's bill;

29 (6) standards to limit the land use impact of a solar energy
30 project as required in subsection r. of section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23
31 (C.48:3-87);

32 (7) the provision of access to solar energy projects for low and
33 moderate income customers;

34 (8) standards to ensure the ability of residential and commercial
35 customers to participate in solar energy projects, including
36 residential customers in multifamily housing;

37 (9) standards for connection to the distribution system of an
38 electric public utility; and

39 (10) provisions to minimize impacts to the distribution system
40 of an electric public utility.

41 c. The board shall make available on its Internet website
42 information on solar energy projects whose owners are seeking
43 participants.

44 d. The board shall establish standards and an application
45 process for owners of solar energy projects who wish to be included

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 in the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The standards for
2 the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program shall include, but need
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4 energy projects are producing an amount of energy that is greater
5 than or equal to the amount of energy that is being credited to its
6 participating customer's electric utility bills pursuant to subsection
7 b. of this section, and consumer protection measures. Projects
8 approved by the board shall have at least two participating
9 customers.

10 The board may restrict qualified solar energy projects to those
11 located on brownfields, landfills, areas designated in need of
12 redevelopment, in underserved communities, or on commercial
13 rooftops.

14 e. Subject to review by the board, an electric public utility shall
15 be entitled to full and timely cost recovery for all costs incurred in
16 implementation and compliance with this section.

17 f. No later than 36 months after adoption of the rules and
18 regulations required pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the
19 board shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
20 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
21 seq.), to convert the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program to a
22 permanent program. The board shall adopt rules and regulations for
23 the permanent program that set forth standards for projects owned
24 by electric public utilities, special purpose entities, and nonprofit
25 entities. The rules and regulations shall also:

26 (1) limit the capacity of each solar energy project to a maximum
27 of five megawatts;

28 (2) (a) establish a goal for the conditional registration of 225
29 megawatts of solar energy projects prior to June 1, 2024, with an
30 additional 275 megawatts prior to June 1, 2024 if qualified
31 applications exceed 225 megawatts, and an additional 250
32 megawatts prior to June 1, 2025 if qualified applications exceed 500
33 megawatts], and at least an additional 150 megawatts per year
34 thereafter, taking into account any changes to the SREC program];
35 and

36 (b) stipulate that the board shall open registration, by August 1,
37 2025, for 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects in addition to
38 the conditional registration goals already established pursuant to
39 this paragraph. The board shall accept and approve registrations
40 pursuant to this subparagraph until the earlier of December 31, 2029
41 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects are
42 completely registered. The board shall set SREC-II levels and
43 guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the
44 complete registration of 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects
45 by December 31, 2029;

46 (3) set geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
47 participating customers;

- 1 (4) provide for a minimum number of participating customers
- 2 for each solar energy project;
- 3 (5) require the provision of access to solar energy projects for
- 4 low and moderate income customers;
- 5 (6) establish standards to ensure the ability of residential and
- 6 commercial customers to participate in solar energy projects,
- 7 including residential customers in multifamily housing;
- 8 (7) establish a method for determining the value of the credit on
- 9 each participating customer's bill;
- 10 (8) establish timeframes for the credit available to the customer;
- 11 (9) establish standards and methods to verify solar electric
- 12 energy generation on a monthly basis for a solar energy project;
- 13 (10) establish standards consistent with the land use provisions
- 14 for solar energy projects as provided in subsections r., s., and t. of
- 15 section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-87);
- 16 (11) establish standards, fees, and uniform procedures for solar
- 17 energy projects to be connected to the distribution system of an
- 18 electric public utility;
- 19 (12) minimize impacts to the distribution system of an electric
- 20 public utility;
- 21 (13) require monthly reporting requirements for the operators of
- 22 solar energy projects to the electric public utility, project customers,
- 23 and the board;
- 24 (14) require reporting by the electric public utility to the operator
- 25 of a solar energy project on the value of credits to the participating
- 26 customer's bills;
- 27 (15) require transferability, portability, and buy-out provisions
- 28 for customers who participate in community solar energy projects;
- 29 (16) establish requirements and standards that provide for the
- 30 auditing and enforcement of a solar energy project's compliance
- 31 with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations
- 32 adopted pursuant thereto, including the project's compliance with
- 33 commitments related to providing access to solar energy projects to
- 34 low- and moderate-income customers and bill crediting; and
- 35 (17) allow, in a form and manner to be determined by the board,
- 36 low- and moderate-income residential customers to self-attest to the
- 37 customer's income as an acceptable income verification method for
- 38 participation in a solar energy project.
- 39 g. As used in this section:
- 40 "Solar energy project" means a system containing one or more
- 41 solar panels and associated equipment.
- 42 "Solar panel" means an elevated panel or plate, or a canopy or
- 43 array thereof, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce
- 44 electric power, and is approved by the board to be included in the
- 45 Community Solar Energy Pilot Program.

5

7

8

10

11 This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (board) to open
12 registration by August 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of
13 community solar projects. The bill requires the board to accept and
14 approve registrations until the earlier of December 31, 2029 or such
15 time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects are completely
16 registered. The board shall set SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill
17 credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the complete
18 registration of the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects by
19 December 31, 2029. The bill would also remove the 150 megawatt
20 annual goal under the community solar program.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5768

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LUANNE M. PETERPAUL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman MARGIE DONLON, M.D.

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Katz and Assemblyman Venezia

SYNOPSIS

Requires BPU to revise community solar program targets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Budget Committee on June 26, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/19/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning solar energy and amending P.L.2018, c.17.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 5 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.11) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 5. a. No later than 210 days after the date of enactment of
9 P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.8 et al.), the Board of Public Utilities
10 shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
11 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations
12 establishing a “Community Solar Energy Pilot Program” to permit
13 customers of an electric public utility to participate in a solar energy
14 project that is remotely located from their properties but is within
15 their electric public utility service territory to allow for a credit to
16 the customer's utility bill equal to the electricity generated that is
17 attributed to the customer's participation in the solar energy project.

18 b. The rules and regulations developed by the board shall
19 establish:

20 (1) a capacity limit for individual solar energy projects to a
21 maximum of five megawatts per project;

22 (2) an annual capacity limit for all solar energy projects under
23 the pilot program;

24 (3) geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
25 participating customers;

26 (4) a minimum number of participating customers for each solar
27 energy project;

28 (5) the value of the credit on each participating customer's bill;

29 (6) standards to limit the land use impact of a solar energy
30 project as required in subsection r. of section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23
31 (C.48:3-87);

32 (7) the provision of access to solar energy projects for low and
33 moderate income customers;

34 (8) standards to ensure the ability of residential and commercial
35 customers to participate in solar energy projects, including
36 residential customers in multifamily housing;

37 (9) standards for connection to the distribution system of an
38 electric public utility; and

39 (10) provisions to minimize impacts to the distribution system
40 of an electric public utility.

41 c. The board shall make available on its Internet website
42 information on solar energy projects whose owners are seeking
43 participants.

44 d. The board shall establish standards and an application
45 process for owners of solar energy projects who wish to be included

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ABU committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

1 in the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The standards for
2 the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program shall include, but need
3 not be limited to, a verification process to ensure that the solar
4 energy projects are producing an amount of energy that is greater
5 than or equal to the amount of energy that is being credited to its
6 participating customer's electric utility bills pursuant to subsection
7 b. of this section, and consumer protection measures. Projects
8 approved by the board shall have at least two participating
9 customers.

10 The board may restrict qualified solar energy projects to those
11 located on brownfields, landfills, areas designated in need of
12 redevelopment, in underserved communities, or on commercial
13 rooftops.

14 e. Subject to review by the board, an electric public utility shall
15 be entitled to full and timely cost recovery for all costs incurred in
16 implementation and compliance with this section.

17 f. No later than 36 months after adoption of the rules and
18 regulations required pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the
19 board shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
20 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
21 seq.), to convert the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program to a
22 permanent program. The board shall adopt rules and regulations for
23 the permanent program that set forth standards for projects owned
24 by electric public utilities, special purpose entities, and nonprofit
25 entities. The rules and regulations shall also:

26 (1) limit the capacity of each solar energy project to a maximum
27 of five megawatts;

28 (2) (a) establish a goal for the conditional registration of 225
29 megawatts of solar energy projects prior to June 1, 2024, with an
30 additional 275 megawatts prior to June 1, 2024 if qualified
31 applications exceed 225 megawatts, and an additional 250
32 megawatts prior to June 1, 2025 if qualified applications exceed 500
33 megawatts], and at least an additional 150 megawatts per year
34 thereafter, taking into account any changes to the SREC program];
35 and

36 (b) stipulate that the board shall open registration, by ¹[August]
37 October¹ 1, 2025, for 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects
38 ¹owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit entities,¹ in
39 addition to the conditional registration goals already established
40 pursuant to this paragraph. The board shall accept and approve
41 registrations pursuant to this subparagraph until the earlier of
42 December 31, 2029 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar
43 energy projects ¹owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit
44 entities¹ are completely registered. The board shall set SREC-II
45 levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to
46 enable the complete registration of 3,000 megawatts of solar energy

1 projects ¹owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit entities¹
2 by December 31, 2029;

3 (3) set geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
4 participating customers;

5 (4) provide for a minimum number of participating customers
6 for each solar energy project;

7 (5) require the provision of access to solar energy projects for
8 low and moderate income customers;

9 (6) establish standards to ensure the ability of residential and
10 commercial customers to participate in solar energy projects,
11 including residential customers in multifamily housing;

12 (7) establish a method for determining the value of the credit on
13 each participating customer's bill;

14 (8) establish timeframes for the credit available to the customer;

15 (9) establish standards and methods to verify solar electric
16 energy generation on a monthly basis for a solar energy project;

17 (10) establish standards consistent with the land use provisions
18 for solar energy projects as provided in subsections r., s., and t. of
19 section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-87);

20 (11) establish standards, fees, and uniform procedures for solar
21 energy projects to be connected to the distribution system of an
22 electric public utility;

23 (12) minimize impacts to the distribution system of an electric
24 public utility;

25 (13) require monthly reporting requirements for the operators of
26 solar energy projects to the electric public utility, project customers,
27 and the board;

28 (14) require reporting by the electric public utility to the operator
29 of a solar energy project on the value of credits to the participating
30 customer's bills;

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32 for customers who participate in community solar energy projects;

33 (16) establish requirements and standards that provide for the
34 auditing and enforcement of a solar energy project's compliance
35 with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations
36 adopted pursuant thereto, including the project's compliance with
37 commitments related to providing access to solar energy projects to
38 low- and moderate-income customers and bill crediting; and

39 (17) allow, in a form and manner to be determined by the board,
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41 customer's income as an acceptable income verification method for
42 participation in a solar energy project.

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45 solar panels and associated equipment.

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1 electric power, and is approved by the board to be included in the
2 Community Solar Energy Pilot Program.

3 “Solar power” includes flat plate, focusing solar collectors, or
4 photovoltaic solar cells and excludes the base or foundation of the
5 panel, plate, canopy, or array.

6 (cf: P.L.2023, c.200, s.1)

7

8 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5768

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LUANNE M. PETERPAUL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman MARGIE DONLON, M.D.

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Katz, Assemblymen Venezia and Bailey

SYNOPSIS

Requires BPU to revise community solar program targets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Budget Committee on June 27, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning solar energy and amending P.L.2018, c.17.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 5 of P.L.2018, c.17 (C.48:3-87.11) is amended to
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12 establishing a “Community Solar Energy Pilot Program” to permit
13 customers of an electric public utility to participate in a solar energy
14 project that is remotely located from their properties but is within
15 their electric public utility service territory to allow for a credit to
16 the customer's utility bill equal to the electricity generated that is
17 attributed to the customer's participation in the solar energy project.

18 b. The rules and regulations developed by the board shall
19 establish:

20 (1) a capacity limit for individual solar energy projects to a
21 maximum of five megawatts per project;

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23 the pilot program;

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25 participating customers;

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27 energy project;

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30 project as required in subsection r. of section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23
31 (C.48:3-87);

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35 customers to participate in solar energy projects, including
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42 information on solar energy projects whose owners are seeking
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not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ABU committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

²Assembly ABU committee amendments adopted June 27, 2025.

1 d. The board shall establish standards and an application
2 process for owners of solar energy projects who wish to be included
3 in the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. The standards for
4 the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program shall include, but need
5 not be limited to, a verification process to ensure that the solar
6 energy projects are producing an amount of energy that is greater
7 than or equal to the amount of energy that is being credited to its
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17 be entitled to full and timely cost recovery for all costs incurred in
18 implementation and compliance with this section.

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20 regulations required pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the
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45 energy projects ²owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit
46 entities ¹are completely registered. The board shall set SREC-II
47 levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to

1 enable the complete registration of 3,000 megawatts of solar energy
2 projects ² owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit
3 entities¹ by December 31, 2029;

4 (3) set geographic limitations for solar energy projects and
5 participating customers;

6 (4) provide for a minimum number of participating customers
7 for each solar energy project;

8 (5) require the provision of access to solar energy projects for
9 low and moderate income customers;

10 (6) establish standards to ensure the ability of residential and
11 commercial customers to participate in solar energy projects,
12 including residential customers in multifamily housing;

13 (7) establish a method for determining the value of the credit on
14 each participating customer's bill;

15 (8) establish timeframes for the credit available to the customer;

16 (9) establish standards and methods to verify solar electric
17 energy generation on a monthly basis for a solar energy project;

18 (10) establish standards consistent with the land use provisions
19 for solar energy projects as provided in subsections r., s., and t. of
20 section 38 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-87);

21 (11) establish standards, fees, and uniform procedures for solar
22 energy projects to be connected to the distribution system of an
23 electric public utility;

24 (12) minimize impacts to the distribution system of an electric
25 public utility;

26 (13) require monthly reporting requirements for the operators of
27 solar energy projects to the electric public utility, project customers,
28 and the board;

29 (14) require reporting by the electric public utility to the operator
30 of a solar energy project on the value of credits to the participating
31 customer's bills;

32 (15) require transferability, portability, and buy-out provisions
33 for customers who participate in community solar energy projects;

34 (16) establish requirements and standards that provide for the
35 auditing and enforcement of a solar energy project's compliance
36 with the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations
37 adopted pursuant thereto, including the project's compliance with
38 commitments related to providing access to solar energy projects to
39 low- and moderate-income customers and bill crediting; and

40 (17) allow, in a form and manner to be determined by the board,
41 low- and moderate-income residential customers to self-attest to the
42 customer's income as an acceptable income verification method for
43 participation in a solar energy project.

44 g. As used in this section:

45 "Solar energy project" means a system containing one or more
46 solar panels and associated equipment.

47 "Solar panel" means an elevated panel or plate, or a canopy or
48 array thereof, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce

1 electric power, and is approved by the board to be included in the
2 Community Solar Energy Pilot Program.

3 “Solar power” includes flat plate, focusing solar collectors, or
4 photovoltaic solar cells and excludes the base or foundation of the
5 panel, plate, canopy, or array.

6 (cf: P.L.2023, c.200, s.1)

7

8 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5768

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5768.

As reported, this bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (board) to open registration by August 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of community solar projects. The bill requires the board to accept and approve registrations until the earlier of December 31, 2029 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects are completely registered. The board shall set SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the complete registration of the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects by December 31, 2029. The bill also removes the 150-megawatt, annual goal under the community solar program.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5768

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5768.

As amended and reported, this bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (board) to open registration by October 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of community solar projects owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit entities. The bill requires the board to accept and approve registrations until the earlier of December 31, 2029 or such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit entities are completely registered. The board shall set SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the complete registration of the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit entities by December 31, 2029. The bill also removes the 150-megawatt, annual goal under the community solar program.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) delay the date by which the board is required to open registration from August 1, 2025 to October 1, 2025; and

(2) specify the 3000 megawatts of community solar projects that the board is required to open and complete registration for, and set SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to enable, are required to be from community solar projects owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit entities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5768

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2025

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5768 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (board) to open registration by October 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of community solar projects. The bill requires the board to accept and approve registrations until the earlier of December 31, 2029 or until such time as the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects are completely registered. The board is required to set SREC-II levels and guaranteed bill credit discount levels as appropriate to enable the complete registration of the 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects by December 31, 2029. The bill also removes the 150-megawatt, annual goal under the community solar program.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) remove a provision that requires the board to only accept registrations for solar energy projects owned by special purpose entities and nonprofit entities in its additional solicitation of 3,000 megawatts of solar energy projects under the bill; and

(2) remove a provision that requires the board to adopt rules and regulations establishing standards for projects owned by electric public utilities under the permanent Community Solar Energy Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Address Regional Energy Cost Crisis

Posted on - 08/22/2025

Massive Expansion of New Jersey's Nation-Leading Solar Programs – Resulting in 3,000 New Megawatts of Community Solar Projects

Transmission-Scale Energy Storage Incentive Program to Reach 2,000 MW of Energy Storage by 2030 – One of the Most Ambitious Targets in the Nation

Legislation Will Nearly Double Clean Energy Capacity, Reducing Electric Bill Costs

LAWRENCEVILLE – Governor Phil Murphy today signed into law S4530/A5768 and A5267/S4289 as part of the Murphy Administration's ongoing commitment to addressing the regional energy cost crisis by putting New Jersey on a path to nearly double its capacity to deliver affordable, reliable, and renewable energy by 2030. This legislation will facilitate the swift expansion of solar access for 450,000 additional New Jerseyans, including 250,000 low-income families, which will enable the equivalent of one million households to receive solar power by 2028. These bills will also help lower energy costs by vastly accelerating the construction of energy storage facilities across the state. The Governor was joined by legislative sponsors, local leaders, union members, and advocates at IBEW Local 269 in Lawrenceville.

S4530/A5768 directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to open registration by October 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of community solar projects. This will mark a massive expansion of New Jersey's nation-leading solar programs and help hardworking families and businesses save money on their monthly electric bills.

A5267/S4289 establishes a transmission-scale energy storage incentive program to achieve New Jersey's goal of 2,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030. The program seeks to rapidly install new clean energy capacity and reduce costs for New Jersey's energy customers.

In an effort to provide necessary energy alternatives, these pieces of legislation allow for the rapid expansion of New Jersey's community solar program and swift creation of new energy storage facilities. Solar capacity has increased from 2.4 gigawatts to 5.2 gigawatts under the Murphy Administration, with solar currently powering the equivalent of over 600,000 homes.

"Today, we are taking immediate and far-reaching steps to lower energy costs for every household in New Jersey," **said Governor Murphy**. "By accelerating the process for bringing new sources of energy online and rapidly building new energy storage facilities, we will meet growing demand while also making life more affordable for our state's families. As part of this process, we are going to create good-paying, union jobs and build a cleaner, more resilient future for every New Jerseyan."

Back
to top

"I want to thank Governor Murphy for his leadership in advancing clean power solutions for New Jersey," **said NJBPU President Christine Guhl-Sadovy**. "This legislation addresses real problems. More New Jerseyans will get access to the benefits of expanded community solar programs—one of the best ways for residents to lower their utility bills while contributing to clean energy in the Garden State. And large-scale battery storage will strengthen our electric grid and keep the lights on when we need it most. This is how we build a grid that works for everyone."

The two bills signed today build upon the Murphy Administration's ongoing efforts to mitigate rising energy costs due to mismanagement by regional grid operator PJM.

Other notable measures that the Murphy Administration has taken include:

- Calling for a formal investigation (<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250417a.shtml>) into the energy cost crisis facilitated by PJM
- Announcing \$430 million in direct economic relief (<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250605a.shtml>) for New Jersey ratepayers
- Sending a bipartisan letter (<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250718a.shtml>) to PJM demanding increased transparency and oversight
- Signing legislation (<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250815a.shtml>) to increase public accountability from grid operators

The prime sponsors of S4530/A5768 are Senators Gopal and McKeon and Assemblymembers Peterpaul, Donlon, and Karabinchak. The prime sponsors of A5267/S4289 are Senators Smith and Burzichelli and Assemblymembers DeAngelo, Bailey, Jr., and Egan.

"Community solar has delivered real benefits for working families across New Jersey, but our current limits on project development are holding back its full potential," **said Senator Gopal**. "This bill modernizes the program to meet today's needs, cutting red tape, creating savings, and accelerating our clean energy transition. At a time of rising electricity costs, we should be making it easier, not harder, to build local solar projects that lower bills and reduce strain on our grid. This is an opportunity to deliver immediate value to consumers while helping New Jersey meet its clean energy goals. With smart policy and strong investment, community solar can help power our future, affordably and equitably."

"The Community Solar Energy Program has already delivered over \$7 million in savings to more than 28,000 New Jersey residents, with over half of its benefits going to low and moderate-income households," **said Senator John McKeon**. "By expanding the program to 3,000 megawatts by 2029, we will strengthen the state's generation capacity and ensure that we are able to meet ever-increasing demand to avoid rate spikes in the future."

"As projected energy demand and electricity costs rise, it is more important than ever to invest in innovative technology that will both enhance the stability of our grid and enable cost savings for New Jersey residents," **said Senator Smith, the Chair of the Senate Energy Committee**. "By incentivizing and procuring the creation of transmission-scale energy storage we will enable a wider application of clean energy that can charge and store energy at low-cost hours then discharge at high-cost, high-demand hours, thus lowering overall costs and smoothing demand spikes on the grid. This legislation will help keep New Jersey at the forefront of investments in new, clean energy technology, even as the current federal administration seeks to sabotage our environment and our renewable future."

"Energy storage is one of the more effective ways to reinforce the supply of power, which will help lower utility costs for consumers," **said Senator Burzichelli**. "Investing in transmission-scale energy storage will make the utility grid more resilient to fluctuations in the supply and demand of power so that homeowners and businesses are better protected against increased electric bills. This is one of the many actions we are taking to counter the management failures by the regional energy grid operator that resulted in a spike in utility costs."

"Energy storage is a necessary tool in balancing supply and demand, lowering costs, and increasing renewable energy projects," **said Assemblyman DeAngelo, President of IBEW Local 269**. "As we seek to diversify our energy generation portfolio, this legislation will help us harness the power of renewable energy sources and use it to enhance the resiliency of our energy infrastructure."

"Reliability and efficiency of the power grid are essential parts of the conversation surrounding energy affordability," **said Assemblyman Bailey**. "Storing excess energy when demand is low and releasing it when demand is high is one of the smartest ways to reduce costs for consumers. Bill A5267 will do just that by bringing large-scale storage projects online, making our grid more reliable and our utility bills more affordable."

"Bill A5267 will help us mitigate the unpredictability in both the market and the climate by strengthening our ability to store energy," **said Assemblyman Egan**. "The steps we're taking to stabilize the grid today will benefit consumers well into the future."

"Community solar projects are beneficial in numerous ways, including promoting clean energy, enhancing accessibility, and reducing costs," **said Assemblywoman Peterpaul**. "New Jersey's Community Solar Energy Program has yielded millions of dollars in savings for subscribers. With this bill being signed into law today, we look forward to even more projects being constructed, leading to additional savings for residents throughout the state."

"Boosting New Jersey's energy supply is key to lowering utility bills for New Jersey ratepayers and this legislation is pivotal to bringing new solar projects online," **said Assemblywoman Donlon**. "By expanding the nationally-recognized Community Solar Energy Program, Bill A5768 will enable us to bring rate relief to working families and increase access to this vital clean energy source."

"With the termination of the federal Solar for All program earlier this month, the signing of this legislation could not come at a more critical time," **said Assemblyman Karabinchak**. "Solar technology has stood the test of time and will play a crucial role in reaching our energy goals in New Jersey. As we continue to address energy affordability, bring relief to ratepayers, and increase electricity generation, Bill A5768 will help incentivize the development and construction of significantly more solar energy projects in the state."

"With Governor Murphy's signature, New Jersey just cemented itself as a national leader in energy affordability and equity," **said Charlie Coggeshall, Mid-Atlantic Director for the Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA)**. "This law doesn't just build solar—it builds economic opportunity and resilience for the communities that need it most." New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

"The passage and signing of these bills are a major step forward for New Jersey's clean energy future. Expanding energy storage and community solar doesn't just strengthen our power grid—it creates good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for the skilled union carpenters who are ready to build this future," **said Anthony Abrantes, Assistant Executive Secretary – Treasurer, Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters**. "These policies ensure that working people are at the center of the transition to renewable energy, delivering both environmental progress and economic opportunity. We applaud Governor Murphy and the legislature for their leadership in ensuring that clean

energy expansion goes hand-in-hand with creating a pathway to the middle class.”

“We thank Governor Murphy and the legislative sponsors for their leadership on these critical bills that will help the state move forward with clean energy development. Energy storage is essential to make renewable energy sources like solar provide energy to its fullest potential by allowing excess energy generated during sunny periods to be saved for peak demand. Incentivizing transmission-scale energy storage while increasing community solar targets will generate more power capacity, help reduce cost of electricity, improve grid reliability, reduce emissions and combat climate change. This is the smart direction New Jersey must continue to go towards,” **said Anjuli Ramos-Busot, New Jersey Director of the Sierra Club.**

“Today’s bill signings mark an exciting step forward in New Jersey’s transition to a clean energy future. Expanding community solar and energy storage will not only reduce pollution and protect our environment, but also create good local jobs, lower energy bills quickly, and improve health outcomes for families across the state. We applaud Governor Murphy, the Legislature, and our union partners for their leadership and commitment to building a stronger, healthier, and more sustainable New Jersey for all,” **said Ed Potosnak, Executive Director, New Jersey LCV.**

Governor Phil Murphy

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Key Initiatives

[Economy & Jobs \(/governor/initiatives/#Economy\)](#)

[Education \(/governor/initiatives/#Education\)](#)

[Environment \(/governor/initiatives/#Environment\)](#)

[Health \(/governor/initiatives/#Health\)](#)

[Law & Justice \(/governor/initiatives/#Justice\)](#)

[Transportation \(/governor/initiatives/#Transportation\)](#)

News & Events

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[Public Addresses \(/governor/news/addresses\)](#)

[Executive Orders \(/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html\)](#)

[Administrative Orders \(/governor/news/ao/approved/ao_archive.shtml\)](#)

[Direct Appointments \(/governor/news/appointments\)](#)

[Advice and Consent Appointments \(/governor/news/acappointments\)](#)

[Statements on Legislation \(/governor/news/statements/approved/statements_archive.shtml\)](#)

[Administration Reports \(/governor/news/adminreports/approved/archive.shtml\)](#)

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Office of Governor PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

Assemblywomen Donlon and Peterpaul Announce 13 Bills Signed Into Law This Summer

TINTON FALLS - The Governor signed 13 of Assemblywoman Margie Donlon and Assemblywoman Luanne Peterpaul's bills into law this summer.

Either Assemblywoman Donlon or Assemblywoman Peterpaul, or both, and Senator Vin Gopal, (D-Monmouth) were the prime sponsors of four of the bills and cosponsors of the remaining nine.

"Many of these bills support small businesses and protect consumers. They reflect the concerns that Legislative District 11 residents tell us are important to them, such as utility costs, as we travel around the district talking to businesses and residents," said Assemblywoman Peterpaul.



The bills on which the Assemblywomen were primary sponsors include A5768, which requires the BPU to revise community solar program targets and directs the agency to open registration by October 1, 2025 for an additional 3,000 megawatts of community solar projects. Senator Gopal was a primary sponsor of the Senate version. Another of their bills, A5141, establishes an historic distillery license to allow the manufacturing and consumption of distilled alcoholic beverages on-and-off premises under certain circumstances by a licensee on the NJ Register of Historic Places. Senator Gopal also was a primary sponsor.

"Our sponsored bills also address healthcare concerns, which are a top priority for the LD11 office, and ensure healthcare insurance is more accessible and affordable," said Donlon, who is a physician and primary sponsor of A5810, which promotes equity in the health insurance appeal process. "This bill eliminates fees for appeals against health insurance carriers that deny, reduce, or terminate benefits."

Assemblywoman Donlon and Senator Gopal also were primary sponsors of A5199, a new law that requires eligible resident and fellow physicians employed by Rutgers University, including University Hospital, and their dependents, receive coverage in the State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) on the first day of employment.

"This legislation corrects a situation that resulted in these healthcare professionals working in hospital environments, where they are exposed to diseases, infections and other dangers, but didn't have health coverage for a period of time," Gopal said.

The LD11 legislators also cosponsored nine other bills that became the law since June 30 of this year. These bills include:

[A5792](#) - Provides for workers' compensation coverage of certain counseling services for first responders and ensures that mental health-related communications are confidential.

[A5687](#) - Establishes the "Next New Jersey Manufacturing Program" to incentivize in-state manufacturing investments and job creation.

[A5466](#) - Requires the BPU to study the effects of data centers on electricity costs.

[A5463](#) - Requires electric public utilities to submit an annual report on voting to the BPU.

[A5447](#) - Prohibits the sweepstakes model of wagering; establishes new penalties for unlawful gambling operations and practices; directs Division of Consumer Affairs and Division of Gaming Enforcement to enforce penalties.

[S4567](#) - Appropriates \$107,999,000 from constitutionally dedicated Corporate Business Tax revenues and various Green Acres funds to the DEP to make grants to local governments for open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects.

[S4476](#) - Permits awarding of contracts for certain preschool education services by resolution of the board of education; extends the maximum length of preschool education services contracts to three years. Senator Gopal was a primary sponsor in the Senate.

[S3910](#) - Makes various changes to the provision of preschool aid and facilities requirements; establishes Universal Preschool Implementation Steering Committee; requires full-day kindergarten in all school districts.

[S3711](#) - Makes annual allocations of \$500,000 from the Clean Communities Program Fund for public outreach concerning single-use plastics reduction programs permanent.