

CHAPTER 315
SB 538-FN - FINAL VERSION

03/12/2026 1001s
06/04/2026 2072CofC

2026 SESSION

26-2118
06/07

SENATE BILL ***538-FN***

AN ACT extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects.

SPONSORS: Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Avar, Dist 12; Sen. Long, Dist 20; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Energy and Natural Resources

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes long-term eligibility for certain customer-generators to receive net energy metering compensation under alternative tariffs approved by the public utilities commission. This bill also outlines conditions for transitioning to future tariffs.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 315:1 Findings and Purpose. The general court finds that:

2 I. Through the passage of house bill 315 in 2021, the state of New Hampshire intended to make
3 the benefits of group net metering available to municipalities across the state.

4 II. Despite strong interest from municipalities throughout New Hampshire seeking to construct
5 distributed energy resources for the benefit of their communities, unforeseen interconnection delays have
6 resulted in backlog, with many projects still waiting to come online. As the commercial operation date of
7 these projects is pushed out, the available net metering term shrinks due to the termination of net
8 metering in 2040 under current regulation. Without legislative intervention, many municipal net metering
9 projects will cease to be economically viable.

10 III. The general court finds that a net metering term of 20 years is necessary for municipal
11 projects to be financeable. Restoring a 20-year term for municipal net metering projects simply
12 implements the intent of house bill 315 and ensures that cities and towns receive the benefits promised to
13 them through that legislation.

14 315:2 New Paragraph; Net Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting after paragraph II the
15 following new paragraph:

16 II-a. Each electric distribution utility shall make available alternative tariffs for net metering to
17 eligible customer-generators in accordance with order no. 26,029 dated June 23, 2017, and the net
18 metering rules adopted by the commission. Any eligible customer-generator that has submitted an
19 interconnection application to a distribution utility on or before the effective date of this act and that is
20 either a low-moderate income community solar project designated for the Electric Assistance Program
21 under RSA 362-A:9, XIV(e) in 2026 or earlier or is used to offset the electricity requirements of a group
22 consisting exclusively of one or more customers who are political subdivisions that first receives
23 compensation under an order no. 26,029 alternative tariff shall remain eligible to receive that tariff for 20
24 years from the first day on which compensation is received.

25 315:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: July 10, 2026
Effective Date: September 08, 2026

