

CHAPTER 96
SB 65-FN - FINAL VERSION

03/06/2025 0738s
1May2025... 1594h

2025 SESSION

25-0966
06/05

SENATE BILL ***65-FN***

AN ACT relative to stormwater management for solar arrays.

SPONSORS: Sen. Pearl, Dist 17

COMMITTEE: Energy and Natural Resources

ANALYSIS

This bill exempts solar arrays from additional requirements not applicable to other types of development, requires a permit only if over 100,000 square feet of earthmoving or timber harvesting is involved, and renders unenforceable any contradictory administrative rules.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to stormwater management for solar arrays.

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

1 96:1 Terrain Alteration; Rulemaking. RSA 485-A:17, II-a is repealed and reenacted to read as
2 follows:

3 II-a. By January 1, 2026, the department shall adopt rules to establish a permit by notification for
4 alteration of terrain that is limited to the installation of solar panels and related structures if the generating
5 capacity of the installed panels is less than or equal to 5 MW. These rules shall exclude projects located
6 within protected shore-land areas pursuant to RSA 483-B from permit by notification and shall instead
7 require such projects to undergo the standard alteration of terrain permit review process. Until completion
8 of such rulemaking, the department shall consider waivers from the rules adopted pursuant to RSA 485-
9 A:17, I, on a per case basis. Approval of such waivers shall not unreasonably be withheld.

10 96:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: June 17, 2025
Effective Date: June 17, 2025

