

SENATE BILL 398

C5

5lr1088

By: **Senators Pugh and Muse**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Community Solar Projects or Virtual Net Energy**
3 **Metering – Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to convene a stakeholder
5 workgroup to study and make recommendations on the establishment of a program
6 to allow certain customers to participate in certain community solar projects or
7 virtual net energy metering; requiring the workgroup to examine certain matters
8 relating to the establishment of a certain program; requiring the Commission to
9 report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
10 termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study by the Public Service
11 Commission on the establishment of a program for community solar projects or
12 virtual net energy metering.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) The Public Service Commission shall convene a stakeholder workgroup to
16 study and make recommendations on the establishment of a program to allow residential
17 customers who are unable to install solar panels on their own property to participate in
18 community solar projects or virtual net energy metering through which a customer may
19 subscribe to the output solar installation and obtain the benefits of solar generation.

20 (b) In conducting the study, the workgroup shall examine:

21 (1) the costs associated with the transmission and distribution of the
22 energy produced through a community solar project or virtual net energy metering;

23 (2) how similar efforts in other states have been established and work;

24 (3) the allocation of solar renewable energy credits produced by a
25 community solar project or virtual net energy metering;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) possible eligibility requirements for customers to participate in a
2 community solar project or virtual net energy metering; and

3 (5) any other matters the workgroup identifies as pertinent to
4 establishment of the program.

5 (c) On or before December 1, 2016, the Public Service Commission shall report its
6 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
7 the State Government Article.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
10 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
11 of no further force and effect.