



AN ACT RELATIVE TO SOLAR POWER IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND URBAN COMMUNITIES

S. 1831 sponsored by Sen. Chang-Díaz, and H. 3396 sponsored by Rep. Holmes, Rep. Dubois

Massachusetts communities are swiftly transitioning to renewable energy. This power shift comes with great advantages, cleaning our air, creating local jobs and reclaiming billions of energy dollars that would otherwise go out of state. Yet not all communities have access to affordable renewable energy. Renters, low-moderate income residents, people who lack adequate credit and anyone who lives under a shaded roof face difficulty in accessing the benefits of solar energy.

To ensure solar is working for all communities, Massachusetts must:

- Support diverse models of solar development
- Eliminate barriers to the development of community and low-moderate income solar
- Assure meaningful savings for low-moderate income solar customers and renters

This legislation seeks to ensure all communities can access solar energy by providing:

Fair compensation: Renters and low-moderate income residents receive a compensation rate equal to that received by homeowners when buying into low-moderate income community solar projects and solar projects in environmental justice communities.

Removal of Barriers: Lifts public and private net metering cap by 5%.

Incentivizing Equity: Encourages developers to build community, low-income solar by creating a mandatory equity component in any future solar incentive program. The carve-out would encourage low-moderate income solar, but also solar projects that address other barriers like housing type.

Public Solar, Benefitting Community: Municipal solar, which currently gets retail rate compensation, remains at retail when delivering savings to private low-income customers. The bill also creates flexibility for municipalities and public entities to share solar energy savings with residents of their communities.