

STATE OF NEW YORK

4579--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 10, 2023

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- recommitted to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law and the public authorities law, in relation to developing microgrids in preparation for extreme weather events and other risks to public security

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 66-x to read as follows:

§ 66-x. Microgrid development program. 1. Definitions. As used in this section:

(a) "community outage asset" means a public or private entity that provides critical services to the public during an extended electric distribution outage. Community outage assets shall include, but are not limited to: telecommunications providers, hospitals, nursing homes, large retail stores, supermarkets, government agencies, data centers, transportation systems, financial institutions, gas stations, educational institutions, large multi-family residential housing, wastewater treatment facilities, community centers and other customers deemed by the commission to provide a critical service to the public that would promote or enhance health and safety during an outage of the electric distribution system;

(b) "extended electric distribution outage" means a total or partial outage of an electric corporation's distribution system that continues for a period of twenty-four hours or longer;

(c) "uninterrupted" means that the output of the microgrid system is delivered to the end-use customer throughout an extended electric

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 distribution outage, with the exception of momentary interruptions asso-
2 ciated with transitions to and from grid parallel and grid islanded
3 operations; and

4 (d) "microgrid" shall mean a load or group of interconnected loads and
5 distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical bounda-
6 ries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the elec-
7 tric grid. A microgrid can connect and disconnect from the electric
8 grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or island-mode.

9 2. On or within one hundred twenty days of the effective date of this
10 section, the commission shall, after a hearing held on notice, adopt an
11 order requiring the New York state energy research and development
12 authority to establish a program to support the development of micro-
13 grids that are capable of providing an uninterrupted supply of power to
14 one or more community outage assets through an extended electric
15 distribution outage. Such program shall provide overall funding in the
16 amount of seventy-five million dollars for the years two thousand twen-
17 ty-five through two thousand twenty-nine. Such program shall include a
18 preference for those microgrids that:

19 (a) maximize annual reductions in carbon dioxide equivalent, oxides of
20 nitrogen, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter emissions achieved rela-
21 tive to marginal grid emissions for the region in which the project is
22 located. For purposes of this section the commission shall define
23 marginal emissions using the same metric or metrics that are used to
24 quantify emissions reductions achieved by other New York state energy
25 research and development authority clean energy programs;

26 (b) displace or otherwise reduce the operation of diesel back-up
27 generators; and

28 (c) are more capable of being expeditiously permitted, interconnected
29 and commissioned in preparation for extreme weather events and other
30 grid related risks.

31 § 2. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section
32 1020-nn to read as follows:

33 § 1020-nn. Microgrid development program. 1. Definitions. As used in
34 this section:

35 (a) "community outage asset" means a public or private entity that
36 provides critical services to the public during an extended electric
37 distribution outage. Community outage assets shall include, but are not
38 limited to: telecommunications providers, hospitals, nursing homes,
39 large retail stores, supermarkets, government agencies, data centers,
40 transportation systems, financial institutions, gas stations, educa-
41 tional institutions, health care providers, large multi-family residen-
42 tial housing, wastewater treatment facilities, community centers and
43 other customers deemed by the commission to provide a critical service
44 to the public that would promote or enhance health and safety during an
45 outage of the electric distribution system;

46 (b) "extended electric distribution outage" means a total or partial
47 outage of the authority's electric distribution system that continues
48 for a period of twenty-four hours or longer;

49 (c) "uninterrupted" means that the output of the microgrid system is
50 delivered to the end-use customer throughout an extended electric
51 distribution outage, with the exception of momentary interruptions asso-
52 ciated with transitions to and from grid parallel and grid islanded
53 operations; and

54 (d) "microgrid" shall mean a load or group of interconnected loads and
55 distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical bounda-
56 ries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the elec-

1 tric grid. A microgrid can connect and disconnect from the electric
2 grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or island-mode.

3 2. On or within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this
4 section, the authority shall establish a program to support the develop-
5 ment of microgrids that are capable of providing an uninterrupted supply
6 of power to one or more community outage assets through an extended
7 electric distribution outage. Such program shall provide overall funding
8 in the amount of twenty-five million dollars for the years two thousand
9 twenty-five through two thousand twenty-nine. Such program shall include
10 a preference for those microgrids that:

11 (a) maximize annual reductions in carbon dioxide equivalent, oxides of
12 nitrogen, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter emissions achieved rela-
13 tive to marginal grid emissions for the authority's service territory.
14 For purposes of this section the authority shall define marginal emis-
15 sions using the same metric or metrics that are used to quantify emis-
16 sions reductions achieved by other New York state energy research and
17 development authority clean energy programs;

18 (b) displace or otherwise reduce the operation of diesel back-up
19 generators; and

20 (c) are more capable of being expeditiously permitted, interconnected
21 and commissioned in preparation for extreme weather events and other
22 grid related risks.

23 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.