STATE OF NEW YORK

8628--A

IN SENATE

February 22, 2024

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to authorize and direct the public service commission to conduct a study on the deployment of energy interconnection processes into the electrical grid

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

Section 1. Study. The public service commission is authorized and directed to conduct a study on the regulatory barriers, if any, to the rapid deployment of energy interconnection processes in the state that shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Potential changes to the interconnection process to rapidly bring new renewable energy resources onto the electrical grid to meet the state's renewable energy goals set out under the climate leadership and community protection act, as amended;

(b) The state's ability to comply with goals established in the climate leadership and community protection act, as amended, with current energy interconnection process timelines, including the effect of recent reforms by the New York Independent System Operator and any additional anticipated reforms;

(c) The experience of other interconnection systems using "Connect and Manage" or other alternative connection agreements in terms of the speed of resource deployments and electrical grid reliability;

(d) The extent to which the studies and network upgrades currently required for Energy Resource Interconnection Service projects in the New York Independent System Operator go beyond the minimal set of studies and network upgrades needed to safely operate the system with a new resource, in comparison to the United Kingdom's Enabling Works approach;

(e) Whether it is possible to identify more efficient system upgrades in the context of the New York Independent System Operator comprehensive system planning process rather than certain studies and upgrades currently in the energy interconnection process;

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

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(f) Whether projects that initially join the system with Energy Resource Interconnection Service status can be elevated to the Network Resource Interconnection Service status upon completion of relevant network upgrades, to determine if there is a mechanism by which generators could be allocated part of the cost of such upgrades, if such upgrades are completed via the comprehensive system planning process rather than the energy interconnection process;

(g) Improvements to the interconnection process for qualified energy storage systems as defined by subdivision 1 of section 74 of the public service law; and

(h) Whether any changes identified in this study at the transmission level would also improve processes at the distribution level.

§ 2. Report. No later than one year after the effective date of this act, the public service commission shall submit to the governor, the speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the senate, a report assessing its findings under the study conducted pursuant to section one of this act, and any recommendations to rapidly bring new renewable energy resources onto the electrical grid to meet the state's renewable energy goals set out under the climate leadership and community protection act, as amended.

§ 3. Definitions. For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Energy interconnection process" means the process of integrating new sources of renewable energy resources, as defined by section 1-103 of the energy law, into the electrical grid.

(b) "Electrical grid" means the network of electric plants and other electric generating facilities and equipment, and electricity transmission and distribution systems in the state.

(c) "Renewable energy resources" shall have the same meaning as defined by section 1-103 of the energy law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.