

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017**

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HOUSE BILL 319

Short Title: Study Solar Facility Decommissioning Rqmts. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Dixon.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Environment, if favorable, Energy and Public Utilities

March 13, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION TO STUDY
3 MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DECOMMISSIONING OF UTILITY-SCALE
4 SOLAR PROJECTS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** The Environmental Review Commission shall study matters related to
7 the decommissioning of utility-scale solar projects. The study shall include, at a minimum,
8 analysis of all of the following matters:

- 9 (1) The need for performance bonding to ensure proper decommissioning and
10 closure of existing or future-built solar facilities.
11 (2) Whether or not any materials used in utility-scale solar projects, including solar
12 panels and the constituent materials thereof, could be classified as hazardous
13 material.
14 (3) Whether or not solar panels, including all of the constituent materials thereof,
15 can be safely disposed of in landfills.
16 (4) The economic feasibility and availability of recycling solar panels.
17 (5) Whether or not the land upon which an utility-scale solar project is constructed
18 could be economically placed back into use for agriculture crop production
19 after cessation of the activities of an utility-scale solar project.
20 (6) The data-based expected economically productive life cycle of various types of
21 solar panels currently in use.

22 For purposes of this section, the term "utility-scale solar project" means a
23 ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV), concentrating photovoltaic (CPV), or concentrating solar
24 power (CSP or solar thermal) project directly connected to the electrical transmission grid for sale
25 to wholesale customers. The term includes the solar arrays, accessory buildings, transmission
26 facilities, and any other infrastructure necessary for the operation of the project. The
27 Environmental Review Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, including any
28 legislative proposals, to the 2018 Regular Session of the 2017 General Assembly upon its
29 convening.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

