

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Griffin Roberge 271-3042

HB 289, relative to including electrical storage facilities in the definition of energy facility.

Hearing Date: April 12, 2021.

Time Opened: 1:20 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:26 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Avard, Gray, Watters and Perkins Kwoka.

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Giuda.

Bill Analysis: This bill adds certain electrical storage facilities to the definition of energy facility.

Sponsors:

Rep. Harrington

Who supports the bill: David Bates; Elizabeth Fenner-Lukaitis; Sarah Hansen; James Monahan, New England Power Generators Association and ReVision Energy; Eric Pauer; Representative Michael Vose, Rockingham - District 9.

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Michael Vose
Rockingham - District 9

- Introduced HB 289 on behalf of the bill's prime sponsor, Representative Michael Harrington.
- HB 289 expands the definition of an "energy facility" under RSA 162-H:2 to include "an electrical storage facility with a peak storage capacity of 30 megawatt-hours or greater." This change allows the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) with its additional expertise and resources to have primary jurisdiction on siting large-scale energy storage facilities.
- HB 289 was recommended "ought to pass" by the House Science, Technology, and Energy and was placed on the House consent calendar. The full House adopted the committee's recommendation by a voice vote on the House consent calendar.
- Senator Watters asked if HB 289 would be helpful to Eversource and other electricity suppliers that want to develop energy storage projects. HB 289 may also be timely given the potential for large-scale energy storage as offshore wind development takes off in the Gulf of Maine.
 - Representative Vose agreed with Senator Watters that HB 289 is a timely measure. HB 289 gives the SEC jurisdiction over the siting of large-scale energy storage facilities.

James Monahan

President, the Dupont Group, representing ReVision Energy and the New England Power Generators Association

- HB 289 is a housekeeping measure. When the SEC statute was established and updated years ago, the concept of large-scale battery storage was not part of the energy industry. However, with recent technological advancements, battery storage is an emerging part of the industry.

- Agreed with Senator Watters that HB 289 is a timely measure. Investors are looking at potential locations to invest capital for energy storage projects. The SEC offers a level of predictability. Passing HB 289 could make NH attractive for energy storage developers and their investors.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

GJR

Date Hearing Report completed: April 12, 2021.