Clean Energy Access Act 2019

Protect Energy Consumers, Bill of Rights – Section 58-27-845

- Right to manage energy usage in order to lower bills, without penalty or discrimination
- Energy rates must be transparent, easy to understand and control, and any increase in fixed charges must be proportional to increase in overall rate
- Customers have a right to obtain and use data collected by a utility on their individual energy consumption

Encourage Energy Storage – Section 58-40-10(c)(1) – Adds “energy storage” to the definition of customer generator

Modify Rooftop Solar/Net Metering Programs – Section 58-40-20

- Utilities must file a new rate, “successor tariff,” for customers who install rooftop solar within 30 days of bill passage
- The successor tariff will create monthly netting – energy production netted against energy consumption on a monthly basis
  - Any excess energy production exported onto the grid will be paid to customer at Commission-approved Value of Distributed Energy Resource
  - Customers may carry any excess dollar value over to the next month to decrease their utility bill
- Explicitly says non-solar customers do not have to pay for lost revenue that a utility incurs due to customers that install solar – ensures no subsidy
- Utility may continue to recover existing program costs, as normal, up to 2% cap

Remove Solar Leasing Cap – Deleted Section 58-27-2610 – Removes the solar leasing cap and other references to the cap

Streamline Large-scale Solar Programs – Title 58 amended, Chapter 41 - Creates applicable definitions to streamline large scale solar programs and ensure transparency and utility accountability

Allow Fair Market Access for Large-scale Solar – Section 58-41-30

- Creates a separate Commission proceeding to review and approve rates and terms provided to large scale solar facilities, distinct from fuel proceedings that have other non-solar issues to consider
- Ensures rates paid to large scale solar facilities are reflective of costs a utility would have incurred to produce a unit of energy on their own, including geographic value to the grid of energy produced near point of consumption
- Ensures contract terms are reasonable, non-discriminatory, and in compliance with the law
- Improves rights with respect to utility delays, contract negotiations, and uncompensated curtailment
- Streamlines contract process by allowing commission to approve a template power purchase form

Launch Voluntary Renewable Energy Program for Large Energy Users – Section 58-41-40

- Creates a new, voluntary program for large energy consumers to negotiate and contract directly with a renewable energy supplier under fair, fixed terms
- Allows a large energy consumer the opportunity for savings on utility bill over term of contract
- Only participating customers pay for program costs; no cost is shifted to other customers
**Establish Neighborhood Community Solar Program** – Section 58-41-50

- Creates a program for low-income customers to subscribe to a portion of output from a large-scale solar facility and receive a credit on their utility bill, utilizing competitive auction to derive price
- Includes a performance bonus incentive for utilities that receive full subscription to this program, enhanced rate of return on program costs

**Modernize Integrated Resource Planning** – Section 58-37-40

- Requires comparison of the cost of different future energy strategies in the non-binding plans that utilities files annually (already approved for SCE&G in Dominion merger case)
- Requires that future utility energy needs will be met through an RFP that allows all energy sources to compete (already approved for SCE&G in Dominion merger case)