



WHAT DOES H.4421 DO?

ENERGY CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

- 1. Lift The Net Metering Cap** – South Carolina currently has a 2% cap on the amount of net metered solar systems. Net metering is a billing mechanism that gives consumers fair retail credit for the power they send back to the grid and their neighbors. This bill lifts the cap and allows consumer demand drive solar adoption, without restrictions from an arbitrary government cap.
- 2. Makes Rooftop Solar Available To All South Carolinians** – Santee Cooper and the other electric utility cooperatives were exempt under Act 236 from participating in South Carolina’s net metering goals. This bill protects energy consumers by undoing that exemption and expanding access to solar.
- 3. Accounting Mechanism For Solar Program** – This bill allows net metering accounting mechanisms to be more in line with national, consumer-focused best practices. These new reforms mean utilities will no longer be able to charge non-solar customers for the power they self-generate and don’t buy. This bill also enables utilities to charge solar customers for the costs associated with meeting and interconnecting solar systems, up to \$250.
- 4. Renewable Energy Residential Property Tax Exemption** – This bill exempts residential renewable energy systems from new property taxes, protecting consumers from paying more money for choosing solar.

SOUTH CAROLINA SOLAR ECONOMIC FACTS

- The legislature broke down barriers by passing Act 236 to legalize solar leasing and net metering.
 - After Act 236, solar companies came to South Carolina and created jobs and offered cost savings to homeowners across the state.
 - Today, there are nearly 3,000 solar jobs, more than 50 solar businesses, and more than 4,000 households with solar in South Carolina thanks to net metering. These households are saving on their energy bills and putting that extra cash toward investments in their families and local economies.
 - South Carolina was ranked #2 in highest solar job growth and #1 in solar capacity growth in 2015 by The Solar Foundation: Solar Jobs Census.
 - The 2016 Solar Job Census reports that approximately 10% of the solar workforce in South Carolina is comprised of veteran.
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