

1 H.69

2 Introduced by Representative Botzow of Pownal

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Energy; public service; taxation; study committee

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a study committee to  
7 identify and examine issues regarding the taxation of real property that  
8 includes a renewable energy plant.

9 An act relating to creating a renewable energy property tax study committee

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROPERTY TAX STUDY COMMITTEE

12 (a) There is created the renewable energy property tax study committee to  
13 identify and examine issues regarding the taxation of real property that  
14 includes a renewable energy plant.

15 (b) The members of the study committee shall be:

16 (1) The director of property valuation and review, who shall serve as the  
17 chair of the committee and shall call the first meeting of the committee on or  
18 before August 1, 2011.

19 (2) The commissioner of the department of public service or designee.

1           (3) A representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns,  
2           appointed by its board of directors.

3           (4) A representative of the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association,  
4           appointed by its board of directors.

5           (5) A representative of Renewable Energy Vermont, appointed by its  
6           board of directors.

7           (6) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets or designee.

8           (c) No later than January 15, 2012, the committee shall report its findings  
9           and analysis to the house committees on ways and means, on commerce and  
10           economic development, and on natural resources and energy, and the senate  
11           committees on finance, on economic development, housing, and general  
12           affairs, and on natural resources and energy. The report shall include specific  
13           recommendations with respect to the following:

14           (1) Whether the current method of property taxation of renewable  
15           energy plants adequately apportions the tax burden and, if not, whether energy  
16           plants using different renewable resources should be subject to different rates  
17           of tax and how those rates should be determined.

18           (2) Whether renewable energy plants that are on leased land should be  
19           taxed differently from renewable energy plants that are on land owned by the  
20           plant owner.

1           (3) Whether renewable energy plants installed on residential property  
2           should be exempt from taxation.

3           (4) Whether renewable energy plants installed on land enrolled in the  
4           use value appraisal program or affixed to exempt farm buildings should be  
5           subject to property taxation and, if so, how the rates should be determined.

6           (5) Any other criteria that the director and listers should consider when  
7           assessing the fair market value of land that includes a renewable energy plant.

8           (d) Members of the committee who are not state employees shall be  
9           entitled to compensation as provided under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

10          (e) For the purpose of this section, the terms “plant” and “renewable  
11          energy” shall have the same meaning as under 30 V.S.A. § 8002.

12          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.