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S.220

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General  
Affairs moves that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 8 in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 8 to read as follows:

\* \* \* Electricity Rates for Businesses \* \* \*

Sec. 8. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SERVICE STUDY; BUSINESS

ELECTRICITY RATES

(a) The Commissioner of Public Service, in consultation with the Public  
Service Board and the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development,  
shall conduct a study of how best to advance the public good through  
consideration of the competitiveness of Vermont’s energy-intensive businesses  
with regard to electricity costs. As used in this section, “energy-intensive  
business” or “business” means a manufacturer; a business that uses 1,000  
MWh or more of electricity per year; or a business that meets another energy  
threshold deemed more appropriate by the Commissioner.

(b) In conducting the study required by this section, the Commissioner  
shall consider:

(1) how best to incorporate into rate design proceedings the impact of  
electricity costs on business competitiveness and the identification of the costs  
of service incurred by businesses;

1           (2) with regard to the energy efficiency programs established under 30  
2           V.S.A. § 209, potential changes to their delivery, funding, financing, and  
3           participation requirements;

4           (3) the history and outcome of any evaluations of the Energy Savings  
5           Account or Customer Credit programs, as well as best practices for customer  
6           self-directed energy efficiency programs;

7           (4) the history and outcome of any evaluations of retail choice programs  
8           or policies, as relate to business competitiveness, that have been undertaken in  
9           Vermont and in other jurisdictions;

10           (5) any other programs or policies the Commissioner deems relevant;  
11           and

12           (6) whether and to what extent any programs or policies considered by  
13           the Commissioner under this section would impose cost shifts onto other  
14           customers, result in stranded costs (costs that cannot be recovered by a  
15           regulated utility due to a change in regulatory structure or policy), or conflict  
16           with renewable energy requirements in Vermont and, if so, whether such  
17           programs or policies would nonetheless promote the public good.

18           (c) In conducting the study required by this section, the Commissioner shall  
19           provide the following persons and entities an opportunity for written and oral  
20           comments:

21           (1) consumer and business advocacy groups;

- 1           (2) regional development corporations; and
- 2           (3) any other person or entity as determined by the Commissioner.
- 3           (d) On or before December 15, 2014, the Commissioner shall provide a  
4 status report to the General Assembly of his or her findings and  
5 recommendations regarding regulatory or statutory changes that would reduce  
6 energy costs for Vermont businesses and promote the public good. On or  
7 before December 15, 2015, the Commissioner shall provide a final report to  
8 the General Assembly of such findings and recommendations.