

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Finance to which was referred House Bill No. 40 entitled  
3 “An act relating to establishing a renewable energy standard and energy  
4 transformation program” respectfully reports that it has considered the same  
5 and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended  
6 as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy with the  
7 following amendments thereto:

8 First: In the ninth instance of amendment, in Sec. 6, 30 V.S.A. § 8005b(b),  
9 by striking out each occurrence of “RESET Program” and inserting in lieu  
10 thereof RES and in subdivision (b)(2), by striking out “RESET Program’s  
11 impact” and inserting in lieu thereof impact of the RES

12 Second: In the eleventh instance of amendment, in Sec. 8 (Public Service  
13 Board implementation), by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in lieu  
14 thereof a new subsection (c) to read:

15 (c) Order. On or before July 1, 2016, the Board shall issue an order to take  
16 effect on January 1, 2017 that initially implements Secs. 2, 3, and 7 of this act.

17 Third: By striking out the first reader assistance heading and inserting in  
18 lieu thereof a new reader assistance heading to read as follows:

19 \* \* \* Renewable Energy Standard \* \* \*

20 Fourth: In Sec. 1, 30 V.S.A. § 8002, by striking out subdivision (26) and  
21 inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (26) to read:

1           (26) “RES” means the Renewable Energy Standard established under  
2           sections 8004 and 8005 of this title.

3           Fifth: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 8004, in the section header, by striking out  
4           “AND ENERGY TRANSFORMATION (RESET) PROGRAM” and inserting  
5           in lieu thereof (RES) and, in the section text, by striking out each occurrence of  
6           “RESET Program” and inserting in lieu thereof RES

7           Sixth: In Secs. 3 (30 V.S.A. § 8005), 6 (30 V.S.A. § 8005b), 7 (30 V.S.A.  
8           § 8006), 8 (Public Service Board), and 9 (10 V.S.A. § 2751), by striking out  
9           each occurrence of “RESET Program” and inserting in lieu thereof RES

10          Seventh: In Sec. 3, 30 V.S.A. § 8005, in subsection (b) (reduced amounts;  
11          providers; 100 percent renewable), in subdivision (1), by striking out  
12          subdivision (B) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (B) to read:

13               (B) annually each July 1 commencing in 2018, owns and has retired  
14               tradeable renewable energy credits monitored and traded on the New England  
15               Generation Information System or otherwise approved by the Board equivalent  
16               to 100 percent of the provider’s total retail sales of electricity for the previous  
17               calendar year.

18          Eighth: After Sec. 15, by inserting a Sec. 15a to read:

19          Sec. 15a. 30 V.S.A. § 209(j)(5) is added to read:

20               (5) This subdivision applies to a transferee of all or substantially all of  
21               the assets at the served property of an entity approved to participate in the

1 self-managed energy efficiency program. The Board shall allow the transferee  
2 to continue as a participant in the self-managed energy efficiency program  
3 class in the same manner and under the same terms and conditions that the  
4 transferor participant was authorized to participate, provided:

5 (A) the transferor participant met the requirements of subdivision  
6 (4)(A) of this subsection (j) and the transferee otherwise meets the  
7 requirements of this subsection; and

8 (B) the transferee assumes the obligation to fulfill any outstanding  
9 commitment of the transferor participant under subdivision (4)(D) of this  
10 subsection.

11 Ninth: After Sec. 21 by adding Sec. 21a to read:

12 Sec. 21a. HEAT PUMPS; REPORT

13 On or before January 15, 2016, the Commissioner of Public Service shall  
14 submit a report on heat pumps to the House and Senate Committees on Natural  
15 Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic  
16 Development, and the Senate Committee on Finance. The Commissioner shall  
17 recommend whether the State of Vermont should establish minimum standards  
18 for heat pumps sold in the State, including standards related to heat pump  
19 efficiency and cold climate use. The report shall include the standards, if any,  
20 recommended by the Commissioner. The report shall describe the research

1 and analysis undertaken to prepare the report and the results of the research  
2 and analysis, and state the rationale for each recommendation.

3 Tenth: After Sec. 21a by adding Sec. 21b to read:

4 Sec. 21b. REPORT; RATEPAYER ADVOCATE OFFICES

5 (a) Report. The Commissioner of Public Service shall evaluate the pros  
6 and cons of various forms of ratepayer advocate offices and report to the House  
7 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate  
8 Committee on Finance with any recommendations on how to improve the  
9 structure and effectiveness of the Division for Public Advocacy within the  
10 Department of Public Service.

11 (b) Process. In order to receive information relevant to this evaluation, and  
12 prior to submit the report, the Commissioner shall:

13 (1) solicit input from consumer advocates, utilities, and utility regulation  
14 experts; and

15 (2) conduct at least two public hearings dedicated to the subject of this  
16 section.

17 (c) Scope. The Commissioner shall study various forms of ratepayer  
18 advocacy offices and assess them in terms of:

19 (1) their structure and reporting requirements;

20 (2) whether and how their independence is ensured through structure  
21 and budget;

1           (3) their effectiveness in representing residential ratepayers in regulatory  
2 proceedings;

3           (4) how ratepayer benefits, specifically rate savings, vary with differing  
4 ratepayer advocate structures.

5           Eleventh: After Sec. 21b by adding Sec. 21c to read:

6           Sec. 21c. 30 V.S.A. § 218d(b) is amended to read:

7           (b) If savings result from alternative regulation, at least 50 percent of the  
8 savings shall be shared with ratepayers as determined by the board.

9           Twelfth: In Sec. 25 (conforming amendments; renewable energy  
10 definitions), in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (29), and inserting in  
11 lieu thereof a new subdivision (29) to read:

12           (29) “RES” means the Renewable Energy Standard established under  
13 sections 8004 and 8005 of this title.

14           Thirteenth: After Sec. 27, by inserting a Sec. 27a to read:

15           Sec. 27a. REVISION AUTHORITY

16           In preparing this act for publication in the Acts and Resolves and for  
17 codification, the Office of Legislative Council is authorized to make  
18 appropriate revisions to reflect the amendment of the bill as introduced to  
19 change the name of the Renewable Energy Standard and Energy  
20 Transformation Program to the Renewable Energy Standard and the associated  
21 acronym from RESET to RES.

1 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
2 to establishing a renewable energy standard”

3

4 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\_\_\_\_\_

6

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE