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S.305

* * * Energy Savings Account * * *

Sec. X. 30 V.S.A. § 209 is amended to read:

§ 209. JURISDICTION; GENERAL SCOPE

* * *

(d) Energy efficiency.

* * *

(3) Energy efficiency charge; regulated fuels. In addition to its existing authority, the Commission may establish by order or rule a volumetric charge to customers for the support of energy efficiency programs that meet the requirements of section 218c of this title, with due consideration to the State’s energy policy under section 202a of this title and to its energy and economic policy interests under section 218e of this title to maintain and enhance the State’s economic vitality. The charge shall be known as the energy efficiency charge, shall be shown separately on each customer’s bill, and shall be paid to a fund administrator appointed by the Commission and deposited into the Electric Efficiency Fund. When such a charge is shown, notice as to how to obtain information about energy efficiency programs approved under this section shall be provided in a manner directed by the Commission. This notice shall include, at a minimum, a toll-free telephone number, and to the extent feasible shall be on the customer’s bill and near the energy efficiency charge.

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(B) The charge established by the Commission pursuant to this subdivision (3) shall be in an amount determined by the Commission by rule or order that is consistent with the principles of least-cost integrated planning as defined in section 218c of this title. As circumstances and programs evolve, the amount of the charge shall be reviewed for unrealized energy efficiency potential and shall be adjusted as necessary in order to realize all reasonably available, cost-effective energy efficiency savings. In setting the amount of the charge and its allocation, the Commission shall determine an appropriate balance among the following objectives; provided, however, that particular emphasis shall be accorded to the first four of these objectives: reducing the size of future power purchases; reducing the generation of greenhouse gases; limiting the need to upgrade the State’s transmission and distribution infrastructure; minimizing the costs of electricity; reducing Vermont’s total energy demand, consumption, and expenditures; providing efficiency and conservation as a part of a comprehensive resource supply strategy; providing the opportunity for all Vermonters to participate in efficiency and conservation programs; and targeting efficiency and conservation efforts to locations, markets, or customers where they may provide the greatest value.

(C) The Commission, by rule or order, shall establish a process by which a customer who pays an average annual energy efficiency charge under

1 this subdivision (3) of at least \$5,000.00 may apply to the Commission to self-
2 administer energy efficiency through ~~the use of~~ an energy savings account or
3 customer credit programs which that shall contain a percentage of the
4 customer's energy efficiency charge payments as determined by the
5 Commission. The remaining portion of the charge shall be used for
6 administrative, measurement, verification, and evaluation costs and for
7 systemwide energy benefits. Customer energy efficiency funds may be
8 approved for use by the Commission for one or more of the following: electric
9 energy efficiency projects and non-electric efficiency projects, which may
10 include thermal and process fuel efficiency, flexible load management,
11 combined heat and power systems, demand management, energy productivity,
12 and energy storage. These funds shall not be used for the purchase or
13 installation of new equipment capable of combusting fossil fuels. The
14 Commission in its rules or order shall establish criteria for each program and
15 approval of these applications, establish application and enrollment periods,
16 establish participant requirements, and establish the methodology for
17 evaluation, measurement, and verification for programs. The total amount of
18 customer energy efficiency funds that can be placed into energy savings
19 accounts or the customer credit program annually is \$2,000,000.00 and
20 \$1,000,000.00 respectively.

