

1 H.519

2 Introduced by Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

3 Date:

4 Subject: Energy; taxation; electric vehicles; weatherization; clean energy  
5 development fund

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to enact  
7 planning, study, and report provisions on the use of electric vehicles and the  
8 installation of electric vehicle charging stations; to remove an exemption from  
9 the fuel gross receipts tax that supports the Home Weatherization Assistance  
10 Program; and to adopt, for one year, a clean energy support charge to fund the  
11 Clean Energy Development Fund.

12 An act relating to electric vehicles, the fuel gross receipts tax, and  
13 supporting the Clean Energy Development Fund

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

15 Sec. 1. ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND CHARGING STATIONS, STATE

16 FLEET

17 (a)(1) On or before December 15, 2013, the Commissioner of Buildings  
18 and General Services (the Commissioner), after consultation with the  
19 Commissioners of Public Service and of Human Resources and any other  
20 person the Commissioner considers appropriate, shall complete a study and

1 submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Natural  
2 Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions,  
3 and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the feasibility, benefits, and costs  
4 of installing electric vehicle charging stations in the vicinity of state facilities  
5 for use by state employees and by members of the public.

6 (2) The study and report required by this subsection shall include:

7 (A) recommendations for the installation of electric charging stations  
8 at state office buildings;

9 (B) proposed policies related to the use of charging stations by state  
10 employees and the visiting public and a proposed fee structure;

11 (C) identification of those recommendations requiring legislative  
12 action and proposed legislation to enact those recommendations; and

13 (D) any other findings or recommendations the Commissioner  
14 considers relevant.

15 (b)(1) On or before January 15, 2014, the Commissioner of Buildings and  
16 General Services, after consultation with the Secretary of Administration, the  
17 Commissioner of Public Service, and any other person the Commissioner  
18 considers appropriate, shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on  
19 Natural Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Corrections and  
20 Institutions, and the Senate Committee on Institutions a written plan for  
21 incorporating electric vehicles into the state fleet.

1           (2) The plan under this subsection shall include:

2           (A) a strategy and a target date for incorporating electric vehicles into  
3           the state fleet, including identifying which types of vehicles would or would  
4           not be suitable for conversion to plug-in electric drive vehicles; and

5           (B) a review of the current methods used for life-cycle cost analysis  
6           of the state fleet, including how to account for the costs of carbon dioxide  
7           emissions when considering environmental externalities.

8           (3) The plan under this subsection shall be deemed a part of the State  
9           Energy Plan under 3 V.S.A. § 2291 and, as part of the periodic readoption of  
10           the State Energy Plan, shall be integrated into that plan and updated.

11           (c) In this section, “electric vehicles” means plug-in hybrid vehicles and  
12           battery electric vehicles.

13           Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

14           § 2291. STATE AGENCY ENERGY PLAN

15   \* \* \*

16           (c) The ~~secretary of administration~~ Secretary of Administration with the  
17           cooperation of the ~~commissioners of public service and of buildings and~~  
18           ~~general services~~ Commissioners of Public Service and of Buildings and  
19           General Services shall develop and oversee the implementation of a state  
20           agency energy plan for state government. The plan shall be adopted by  
21           June 30, 2005, modified as necessary, and readopted by the ~~secretary~~ Secretary

1 on or before January 15, 2010 and each sixth year subsequent to 2010. The  
2 plan shall accomplish the following objectives and requirements:

3 (1) To conserve resources, save energy, and reduce pollution. The plan  
4 shall devise strategies to identify to the greatest extent feasible, all  
5 opportunities for conservation of resources through environmentally and  
6 economically sound infrastructure development, purchasing, and fleet  
7 management, and investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency  
8 available to the ~~state~~ State which are cost effective on a life cycle cost basis.

9 (2) To consider state policies and operations that affect energy use.

10 (3) To devise a strategy to implement or acquire all prudent  
11 opportunities and investments in as prompt and efficient a manner as possible.

12 (4) To include appropriate provisions for monitoring resource and  
13 energy use and evaluating the impact of measures undertaken.

14 (5) To identify education, management, and other relevant policy  
15 changes that are a part of the implementation strategy.

16 (6) To devise a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plan  
17 shall include steps to encourage more efficient trip planning, to reduce the  
18 average fuel consumption of the state fleet, ~~and~~ to encourage alternatives to  
19 solo-commuting state employees for commuting and job-related travel, and to  
20 incorporate plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles into the state fleet if  
21 cost-effective on a life-cycle basis.

1           (7) To provide, where feasible, for the installation of renewable energy  
2           systems including solar energy systems, which shall include equipment or  
3           building design features, or both, designed to attain the optimal mix of  
4           minimizing solar gain in the summer and maximizing solar gain during the  
5           winter, as part of the new construction or major renovation of any state  
6           building. The cost of implementation and installation will be identified as part  
7           of the budget process presented to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly.

8                           \* \* \*

9           Sec. 3. PROMOTING THE USE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

10          (a) The Secretary of Natural Resources (“Secretary”), in consultation with  
11          the Secretary of Transportation, the Commissioner of Public Service, the  
12          Commissioner of Taxes, and any other person the Secretary considers  
13          appropriate, shall study how to promote an expansion in the use of electric  
14          vehicles in Vermont consistent with achieving the State’s greenhouse gas  
15          reduction goals set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 578. The study shall include  
16          consideration of:

17                 (1) the costs and benefits to the State of its offering incentives for the  
18                 purchase or sale of electric vehicles by consumers and businesses;

19                 (2) the optimal siting of charging stations throughout the State and  
20                 whether the State should subsidize or take other steps to facilitate the  
21                 installation of charging stations;

1           (3) whether and how to couple electric vehicle charging stations with  
2 renewable electric generation resources;

3           (4) options to fund any cost to the State arising from recommendations  
4 under subdivisions (1)–(3) of this subsection;

5           (5) such other subjects the Secretary considers relevant.

6           (b) On or before December 15, 2013, the Secretary shall issue a written  
7 report of the findings of the study required under subsection (a) of this section  
8 and the Secretary’s recommendations and the reasons for those  
9 recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources  
10 and Energy and the House and Senate Committees on Transportation. The  
11 report shall include the Secretary’s recommendations on how to promote an  
12 expansion in the use of electric vehicles. The report also shall identify those  
13 recommendations requiring legislative action and include the Secretary’s  
14 proposed legislation to enact those recommendations.

15           (c) In this section, “electric vehicles” means plug-in hybrid vehicles and  
16 battery electric vehicles.

17       Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 2503 is amended to read:

18       § 2503. FUEL GROSS RECEIPTS TAX

19           (a) There is imposed a gross receipts tax of 0.5 percent on the retail sale of  
20 the following types of fuel ~~by sellers receiving more than \$10,000.00 annually~~  
21 ~~for the sale of such fuels:~~

- 1 (1) heating oil, kerosene, and other dyed diesel fuel delivered to a
- 2 residence or business;
- 3 (2) propane;
- 4 (3) natural gas;
- 5 (4) electricity;
- 6 (5) coal.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 5. CLEAN ENERGY SUPPORT CHARGE

9 (a) Each Vermont retail electricity provider as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 8002  
10 shall assess on each customer for a period of 12 months commencing with the  
11 provider's August 2013 billing cycle a clean energy support charge of \$0.55  
12 per month.

13 (b) In this section, "customer" shall mean a meter that measures the flow of  
14 electricity from the provider to a consumer. If a person consumes electricity  
15 that flows through more than one meter, each meter shall be assessed the  
16 charge under subsection (a) of this section.

17 (c) At the end of each monthly billing cycle during the period described in  
18 subsection (a) of this section, a Vermont retail electricity provider shall  
19 transmit to the Clean Energy Development Fund under 30 V.S.A. § 8015 the  
20 total amount of the clean energy support charge assessed to the provider's

1 customers during the immediately preceding monthly billing cycle, which  
2 monies shall be deposited into the Fund.

3 (d) The amount of the Clean Energy Support Charge shall be part of the  
4 total payment due on the customer's electric bill during the period described in  
5 subsection (a) of this section and shall be subject to the deposit and  
6 disconnection rules of the Public Service Board.

7 Sec. 6. NOTICE

8 A Vermont retail electricity provider within the meaning of 30 V.S.A.  
9 § 8002(9) during its July 2013 billing cycle shall provide notice to its  
10 customers, in a form directed by the Commissioner of Public Service, of the  
11 Clean Energy Support Charge under Sec. 5 of this act.

12 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage, except Sec. 4 (fuel gross receipts tax)  
14 shall take effect on July 1, 2013.