

1 S.220

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

5 * * * Energy Rates for Businesses * * *

6 Sec. 8. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SERVICE STUDY; BUSINESS
7 RATES

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

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

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

1 (2) with regard to the energy efficiency charge established under 30
2 V.S.A. § 209, potential changes to its 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 during the transition from traditional regulation to an open,
16 competitive environment), or conflict with mandatory renewable energy
17 requirements in Vermont and whether such cost shifts, stranded costs, or
18 conflicts would nonetheless promote the public good.

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

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