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S.202

Senator Hartwell moves that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 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 Board 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. 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 Board and deposited into an 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 Board. 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.

(A) Balances in the Electric Efficiency Fund shall be ratepayer funds, shall be used to support the activities authorized in this subdivision, and shall

1 be carried forward and remain in the Fund at the end of each fiscal year. These
2 monies shall not be available to meet the general obligations of the State.

3 Interest earned shall remain in the Fund. The Board will annually provide the
4 General Assembly with a report detailing the revenues collected and the
5 expenditures made for energy efficiency programs under this section.

6 (B) The charge established by the Board pursuant to this subdivision
7 (3) shall be in an amount determined by the Board by rule or order that is
8 consistent with the principles of least cost integrated planning as defined in
9 section 218c of this title. As circumstances and programs evolve, the amount
10 of the charge shall be reviewed for unrealized energy efficiency potential and
11 shall be adjusted as necessary in order to realize all reasonably available,
12 cost-effective energy efficiency savings. In setting the amount of the charge
13 and its allocation, the Board shall determine an appropriate balance among the
14 following objectives; provided, however, that particular emphasis shall be
15 accorded to the first four of these objectives: reducing the size of future power
16 purchases; reducing the generation of greenhouse gases; limiting the need to
17 upgrade the State's transmission and distribution infrastructure; minimizing the
18 costs of electricity; providing efficiency and conservation as a part of a
19 comprehensive resource supply strategy; providing the opportunity for all
20 Vermonters to participate in efficiency and conservation programs; and the
21 value of targeting efficiency and conservation efforts to locations, markets, or

1 customers where they may provide the greatest value. The Board, by rule or
2 order, shall establish a process by which a customer who pays an average
3 annual energy efficiency charge under this subdivision (3) of at least \$5,000.00
4 may apply to the Board to self-administer energy efficiency through the use of
5 an energy savings account which shall contain a percentage of the customer's
6 energy efficiency charge payments as determined by the Board. The
7 remaining portion of the charge shall be used for systemwide energy benefits.
8 The Board in its rules or order shall establish criteria for approval of these
9 applications.

10 (C) The Board may authorize use of funds raised through an energy
11 efficiency charge on electric ratepayers to support deployment of an electric
12 thermal technology such as air source heat pumps if, after investigation, it
13 finds that deployment of the technology:

14 (i) will be part of an energy efficiency and conservation program
15 that meets the requirements of subsections (d)–(g) of this section and that
16 ensures that the structure in which the technology is to be installed will be
17 energy efficient through measures such as weatherization;

18 (ii) will be beneficial to electric ratepayers;

19 (iii) will result in cost-effective energy savings to the end-user and
20 to the State as a whole;

1 (iv) will result in a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on a
2 life-cycle basis and will not have a detrimental impact on the environment
3 through other means such as release of refrigerants or disposal;

4 (v) will employ demand management to address any increase in
5 peak electric consumption caused by the deployment;

6 (vi) will be coordinated between the energy efficiency and
7 distribution utilities;

8 (vii) will be supported by an appropriate allocation of funds
9 among potential funding sources, including the funding sources described in
10 this subsection (d) and subsection (e) of this section.

11 * * *

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.