

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator MacDonald for the Committee on Finance.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources & Energy with the following amendments thereto:

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

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

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

Third: In Sec. 1, by striking out the reader assistance heading and inserting in lieu thereof a new reader assistance heading to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eighth: After Sec. 15, by inserting a new Sec. 15a to read as follows:

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

(5) This subdivision applies to a transferee of all or substantially all of the assets at the served property of an entity approved to participate in the self-managed energy efficiency program. The Board shall allow the transferee to continue as a participant in the self-managed energy efficiency program class in the same manner and under the same terms and conditions that the transferor participant was authorized to participate, provided:

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

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

Ninth: After Sec. 21 by adding two new sections to be numbered Secs. 21a and 21b to read as follows:

Sec. 21a. HEAT PUMPS; REPORT

On or before December 15, 2015, the Commissioner of Public Service shall submit a report on heat pumps to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate Committee on Finance. The Commissioner shall recommend whether the State of Vermont should establish minimum standards for heat pumps sold in the State, including standards related to heat pump efficiency and cold climate use. The report shall include the standards, if any, recommended by the Commissioner. The report shall describe the research and analysis undertaken to prepare the report and the results of the research and analysis, and state the rationale for each recommendation.

Sec. 21b. REPORT; RATEPAYER ADVOCATE OFFICES

(a) Report. The Commissioner of Public Service shall evaluate the pros and cons of various forms of ratepayer advocate offices and report on or before December 15, 2015, to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Finance with any recommendations on how to improve the structure and effectiveness of the Division for Public Advocacy within the Department of Public Service.

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

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

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

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

(1) their structure and reporting requirements;

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

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

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

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

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

Eleventh: After Sec. 25, by inserting a new Sec. 25a to read as follows:

Sec. 25a. REVISION AUTHORITY

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

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to establishing a renewable energy standard

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

**Reported without recommendation by Senator Snelling for the Committee on Appropriations.**

(Committee voted: 4-0-3)