

1 Requested by Rep. Sibia

2 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

3 The Committee on Energy and Technology to which was referred House
4 Bill No. 501 entitled “An act relating to electricity storage on the Vermont
5 grid” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that
6 the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
7 lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. ELECTRICITY STORAGE; DPS REPORT; BOARD

9 INVESTIGATION

10 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

11 (1) “Electricity storage” means the use of mechanical, chemical, or
12 thermal processes to store electric energy generated from renewable energy for
13 later use.

14 (2) “Renewable energy” has the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A. § 8002.

15 (3) “Thermal storage” includes storing thermal energy generated from
16 renewable energy for direct heating or cooling at a later time in a manner that
17 avoids or reduces the need to use, at that time, electricity for direct heating or
18 cooling.

19 (b) Report. On or before September 15, 2017, the Commissioner of Public
20 Service shall submit a report on the issue of increasing electricity storage and
21 thermal storage on the Vermont electric transmission and distribution system.

1 (1) The Commissioner shall submit the report to the Public Service
2 Board (Board), the House Committee on Energy and Technology, and the
3 Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy.

4 (2) During the preparation of the report, the Commissioner shall provide
5 an opportunity for the public to submit relevant information and
6 recommendations.

7 (3) The report shall:

8 (A) summarize existing state, regional, and national actions or
9 initiatives to encourage deployment of electricity storage or thermal storage, or
10 both;

11 (B) identify and evaluate each of the following with respect to
12 electricity storage and thermal storage on the State's electric transmission and
13 distribution system:

14 (i) the barriers to increasing such storage;

15 (ii) the potential economic and environmental benefits and costs to
16 Vermont of increasing these kinds of storage; and

17 (iii) potential methods to achieve a competitive market for such
18 storage and the benefits and costs of each method;

19 (C) evaluate the viability of requiring electric distribution utilities to
20 offer tariffs for customer-owned electricity storage or thermal storage, or both,

1 including the potential economic benefits and costs of such tariffs and their
2 permissibility under the Federal Power Act; and

3 (D) evaluate the potential use, to encourage electricity storage or
4 thermal storage, or both, of:

5 (i) the standard offer program under 30 V.S.A. § 8005a; and

6 (ii) the Clean Energy Development Fund under 30 V.S.A. § 8015.

7 (4) The report shall provide the Commissioner's findings and
8 recommendations on each of the issues identified in subdivision (3) of this
9 subsection. The report shall itemize which recommendations the
10 Commissioner believes require legislative action and which recommendations
11 may be implemented under current law, including by rule or order of the
12 Public Service Board.

13 (c) Investigation; workshops. On receipt of the report under subsection (b)
14 of this section, the Board shall open an investigation and convene one or more
15 workshops on the issue of increasing electricity storage and thermal storage on
16 the Vermont electric transmission and distribution system, including the topics
17 identified in subdivision (b)(3) of this section and such related questions as the
18 Board may consider relevant.

19 (1) The Board shall provide public notice of the investigation and the
20 workshops and offer an opportunity for the public to submit written comments
21 and recommendations.

1 (2) On or before December 15, 2017, the Board shall issue its
2 recommendations on the issues identified in subsection (b)(3) of this section
3 and such related issues as the Board considers relevant.

4 (A) The Board shall identify which of the recommendations it
5 believes require legislative action and which recommendations it believes may
6 be implemented under current law.

7 (B) The recommendations shall attach a plan for the implementation
8 of those recommendations that the Board concludes may be implemented
9 under current law.

10 (C) The Board shall submit a copy of the recommendations to the
11 Governor, the House Committee on Energy and Technology, and the Senate
12 Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on passage.

15

16

17 (Committee vote: _____)

18

19

20

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE