

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Energy and Technology to which was referred House  
3 Bill No. 739 entitled “An act relating to energy productivity investments under  
4 the self-managed energy efficiency program” respectfully reports that it has  
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out  
6 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 209 is amended to read:

8 § 209. JURISDICTION; GENERAL SCOPE

9 \* \* \*

10 (j) Self-managed energy efficiency programs.

11 (1) There shall be a class of self-managed energy efficiency programs  
12 for transmission and industrial electric ratepayers only.

13 (2) The Commission, by order, shall enact this class of programs.

14 (3) Entities approved to participate in the self-managed energy  
15 efficiency program class shall be exempt from all statewide charges under  
16 subdivision (d)(3) of this section that support energy efficiency programs  
17 performed by or on behalf of Vermont electric utilities. If an electric ratepayer  
18 approved to participate in this program class also is a customer of a natural gas  
19 utility, the ratepayer shall be exempt from all charges under subdivision (d)(3)  
20 of this section or contained within the rates charged by the natural gas utility to

1 the ratepayer that support energy efficiency programs performed by or on  
2 behalf of that utility, provided that the ratepayer complies with this subsection.

3 (4) All of the following shall apply to a class of programs under this  
4 subsection:

5 (A) A member of the transmission or industrial electric rate classes  
6 shall be eligible to apply to participate in the self-managed energy efficiency  
7 program class if the charges to the applicant, or to its predecessor in interest at  
8 the served property, under subdivision (d)(3) of this section were a  
9 minimum of:

10 (i) \$1.5 million during calendar year 2008; or

11 (ii) \$1.5 million during calendar year 2017.

12 (B) A cost-based fee to be determined by the Commission shall be  
13 charged to the applicant to cover the administrative costs, including savings  
14 verification, incurred by the Commission and Department. The Commission  
15 shall determine procedures for savings verification. Such procedures shall be  
16 consistent with savings verification procedures established for entities  
17 appointed under subdivision (d)(2) of this section.

18 (C) An applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that it has a  
19 comprehensive energy management program with annual objectives.  
20 Achievement of certification of ISO standard 14001 shall be eligible to satisfy  
21 the requirements of having a comprehensive program.

1           (D) An applicant eligible pursuant to subdivision (A)(i) of this  
2 subdivision (j)(4) shall commit to an annual average ~~energy efficiency~~  
3 investment in energy efficiency and productivity programs and measures  
4 during each three-year period that the applicant participates in the program of  
5 ~~no~~ not less than \$1 million. An applicant eligible pursuant to subdivision  
6 (A)(ii) of this subdivision (j)(4) shall commit to an annual average investment  
7 in energy efficiency and productivity programs and measures during each  
8 three-year period that the applicant participates in the program of not less than  
9 \$500,000.00. To achieve the exemption from energy efficiency charges related  
10 to natural gas under subdivision (3) of this subsection (j), ~~the~~ an applicant shall  
11 make an additional annual energy efficiency investment in an amount not less  
12 than \$55,000.00. As used in this subsection (j), “productivity programs and  
13 measures” means investments that reduce the amount of energy required to  
14 produce a unit of product.

15           (E) Participation in the self-managed program includes efficiency and  
16 productivity programs and measures applicable to electric and other forms of  
17 energy. A participant may balance ~~efficiency~~ investments in such programs  
18 and measures across all types of energy or fuels without limitations.

19           (F) A participant shall provide to the Commission and Department  
20 annually an accounting of ~~energy~~ investments in energy efficiency and  
21 productivity programs and measures and the resultant energy savings in the

1 form prescribed by the Commission, which may conduct reasonable audits to  
2 ensure the accuracy of the data provided.

3 (G) The Commission shall report to the General Assembly annually  
4 ~~by~~ on or before April 30 concerning the prior calendar year's class of self-  
5 managed energy efficiency programs. The report shall include identification of  
6 participants, their annual investments, and resulting savings, and any actions  
7 taken to exclude entities from the program.

8 (H) Upon approval of an application by the Commission, the  
9 applicant shall be able to participate in the class of self-managed energy  
10 efficiency programs.

11 (I) On a determination that, for a given three-year period, a  
12 participant in the self-managed efficiency program class did not meet or has  
13 not met the commitment required by subdivision ~~(4)(D)~~ of this ~~subsection~~  
14 subdivision (j)(4), the Commission shall terminate the participant's eligibility  
15 for the self-managed program class.

16 (i) On such termination, the former participant will be subject  
17 fully to the then existing charges applicable to its rate class without exemption  
18 under subdivision (3) of this subsection (j), and within 90 days ~~of~~ after such  
19 termination shall pay:

20 (I) the difference between the investment it made pursuant to  
21 the self-managed energy efficiency program during the three-year period of

1 noncompliance and the full amount of the charges and rates related to energy  
2 efficiency it would have incurred during that period absent exemption under  
3 subdivision (3) of this subsection (j); and

4 (II) the difference between the investment it made pursuant to  
5 the program within the current three-year period, if different from the period of  
6 noncompliance, and the full amount of the charges and rates related to energy  
7 efficiency it would have incurred during the current period absent exemption  
8 under subdivision (3) of this subsection (j).

9 (ii) Payments under subdivision ~~(4)(I)(i)~~ of this ~~subsection (j)~~  
10 subdivision (4)(I) shall be made to the entities to which the full amount of  
11 charges and rates would have been paid absent exemption under subdivision  
12 (3) of this subsection (j).

13 (iii) A former participant may not reapply for membership in the  
14 self-managed program after termination under this subdivision (4)(I).

15 (J) A participant in the self-managed program class may request  
16 confidentiality of data it reports to the Commission if the data would qualify  
17 for exemption from disclosure under 1 V.S.A. § 317. If such confidentiality is  
18 requested, the Commission shall disclose the data only in accordance with a  
19 protective agreement approved by the Commission and signed by the recipient  
20 of the data, unless a court orders otherwise.

1 (K) Any data not subject to a confidentiality request under  
2 subdivision ~~(4)~~(J) of this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (4) will be a public record.

3 (L) A participant in the self-managed program class may submit  
4 projects to the independent system operator of New England, including  
5 through recognized aggregators, for payments under that operator’s forward  
6 capacity market program, and shall invest such payments in electric or fuel  
7 efficiency.

8 (M) A participant in the self-managed program class may receive  
9 funding from an energy program administered by a government or other entity  
10 ~~which~~ that is not the participant ~~but~~ and may ~~not~~ count such funds received as  
11 part of the annual commitment to its self-managed energy efficiency program.

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. 2. ENERGY SAVINGS ACCOUNT PARTNERSHIP PILOT

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

15 (1) “ACCD” means the Agency of Commerce and Community  
16 Development under 3 V.S.A. chapter 47.

17 (2) “Commission” means the Public Utility Commission under  
18 30 V.S.A. § 3.

19 (3) “Customer” means a commercial or industrial electric customer that  
20 is located in a service territory in which Efficiency Vermont delivers energy  
21 efficiency programs and measures and that does not qualify for SMEEP.

1           (4) “Customer EEC Funds” means a customer’s EEC payments during  
2           the period of the ESA partnership project.

3           (5) “Department” means the Department of Public Service under  
4           3 V.S.A. § 212 and 30 V.S.A. § 1.

5           (6) “EEC” means an energy efficiency charge on a customer’s retail  
6           electric bill under 30 V.S.A. § 209(d).

7           (7) “Efficiency Vermont” or “EVT” means the EEU whose appointment  
8           under 30 V.S.A § 209(d)(2) includes the delivery of programs and measures to  
9           customers of multiple electric distribution utilities.

10           (8) “Energy efficiency utility” or “EEU” means an entity appointed to  
11           deliver energy efficiency and conservation programs and measures under  
12           30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2).

13           (9) “ESA” means an energy savings account under 30 V.S.A.  
14           § 209(d)(3)(B).

15           (10) “ESA Partnership Pilot” means the three-year pilot program  
16           established by this section.

17           (11) “Productivity measures” means investments that reduce the amount  
18           of energy required to produce a unit of product.

19           (12) “SMEEP” means the self-managed energy efficiency program  
20           established under 30 V.S.A. § 209(j).

1           (13) “Standing committees of jurisdiction” means the House Committee  
2           on Energy and Technology and the Senate Committees on Finance and on  
3           Natural Resources and Energy.

4           (14) “Unregulated fuel” shall have the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A.  
5           § 209(e).

6           (b) ESA Partnership Pilot; establishment. On or before July 1, 2019, the  
7           Commission by rule or order shall establish a three-year pilot program for  
8           customers to self-direct the use of their Customer EEC Funds, working with  
9           EVT. The total amount of Customer EEC Funds available in the pilot program  
10           each year shall not exceed \$2 million. The pilot program established under  
11           this section shall be an expansion of the ESA option under which:

12           (1) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(3)(B),  
13           the customer shall be able to receive an amount equal to 100 percent of its  
14           Customer EEC Funds to pay for the full cost of projects that are eligible under  
15           subdivision (3) of this subsection; for technical assistance and other services  
16           from Efficiency Vermont; and for evaluation, measurement, and verification  
17           activity conducted by the Department or EVT.

18           (2) The customer may receive payments in advance of project  
19           completion from EVT based on the energy management plan submitted under  
20           subsection (d) of this section, estimated project costs, and projected energy



1 savings. However, a customer shall not receive advance payments from EVT  
2 that exceed the amount of Customer EEC Funds the customer has already paid.

3 (3) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of 30 V.S.A. § 209, the  
4 Customer EEC Funds may be used for one or more of the following: electric  
5 energy efficiency, thermal energy and process-fuel efficiency for unregulated  
6 fuels, productivity measures, demand management, and energy storage that  
7 provides benefits to the customer and its interconnecting utility.

8 (c) Methodology for evaluation, measurement, and verification. In its rule  
9 or order under subsection (b) of this section, the Commission shall establish a  
10 methodology for evaluation, measurement, and verification of projects  
11 implemented under the pilot that is consistent with the requirements of  
12 30 V.S.A. § 218c and that includes cost-effectiveness screening that values  
13 energy savings across the customer’s energy portfolio and non-energy benefits  
14 such as economic development. As used in this subsection, “economic  
15 development” includes job creation, job retention, and capital investment.

16 (1) This methodology may be considered for future establishment of  
17 EEU performance criteria under 30 V.S.A. § 209(d).

18 (2) EVT and the Department shall evaluate and verify the electricity  
19 savings of each project funded under the ESA Partnership Pilot with no less  
20 rigor than is required by the Independent System Operator of New England  
21 (ISO-NE) for the ISO-NE’s forward capacity market.

1        (c) Competitive solicitation. A customer shall apply to participate in the  
2        ESA Partnership Pilot through a competitive solicitation process conducted  
3        jointly by EVT, the Department, and ACCD.

4            (1) Promptly after the Commission’s rule or order under subsection (b)  
5        of this section becomes effective, EVT, the Department, and ACCD shall  
6        establish criteria for customer selection that are consistent with that rule or  
7        order and that take into account energy efficiency and economic development.

8            (2) On establishment of the selection criteria, EVT, the Department, and  
9        ACCD jointly shall issue a request for proposals (RFP) from customers  
10       seeking to participate in the ESA Partnership Pilot.

11           (3) EVT, the Department, and ACCD jointly shall select customers to  
12       participate in the ESA Partnership Pilot from among the customers that timely  
13       submit proposals in response to the RFP and shall notify the Commission of  
14       the selected customers.

15           (4) If EVT, the Department, and ACCD are unable to resolve an issue  
16       arising under this subsection, they shall bring the issue to the Commission for  
17       resolution.

18           (5) Customer selection under this subsection shall be completed before  
19       July 1, 2019.

20           (d) Energy management plans. Working with EVT, each customer selected  
21       for the ESA Partnership Pilot shall develop an energy management plan for the

1 three-year period of the pilot with projects to be implemented, energy savings  
2 targets, and a timeline for projects and investments. A copy of each plan shall  
3 be submitted to the Commission, the Department, and ACCD.

4 (e) Other EEU services. A customer that participates in the ESA  
5 Partnership Pilot shall not be eligible for other EEU services, except for an  
6 EEU appointed to deliver natural gas efficiency programs and measures.

7 (f) Other funding. A customer that participates in the ESA Partnership  
8 Pilot may receive funding from an energy program administered by a  
9 government or other person that is not the participant, including an EEU  
10 appointed to deliver natural gas efficiency services, but shall not count such  
11 funds as part of the investment commitment of the ESA Partnership Pilot.

12 (g) Unused funds. At the end of the ESA Partnership Pilot, any Customer  
13 EEC Funds that have not been expended or committed under the pilot shall  
14 revert to use for systemwide energy efficiency programs and measures.

15 (h) Annual reports. On or before each November 1 from 2020 through  
16 2022, the EVT and the selected customers jointly shall submit written progress  
17 reports to the Commission, the Department, and the standing committees of  
18 jurisdiction that include projects under the ESA Partnership Pilot and their  
19 associated energy and cost savings. A customer's projects under the pilot and  
20 the associated data and results shall be made public through this report.  
21 However, a customer may request that the Commission order customer-

1 specific data to be used in preparing a report under this subsection be kept  
2 confidential if the data would qualify for exemption from disclosure under  
3 1 V.S.A. § 317. If the Commission issues such an order, the data subject to the  
4 order shall be disclosed only in accordance with a protective agreement  
5 approved by the Commission and signed by the recipient of the data, unless a  
6 court directs otherwise.

7 (i) Evaluation; recommendation. On completion of the ESA Partnership  
8 Pilot, the Commission shall conduct or shall have a third party conduct an  
9 independent evaluation of the ESA Partnership Pilot and, after considering the  
10 results of that evaluation, shall submit a written recommendation to the  
11 standing committees of jurisdiction on whether to continue the program  
12 conducted under this section and, if so, under what recommended conditions  
13 and revisions, if any. The Commission shall submit this recommendation on  
14 or before January 15, 2023.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

17 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

18 \_\_\_\_\_

19 Representative \_\_\_\_\_

20 FOR THE COMMITTEE