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H.534

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Austin of Colchester, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Durfee of Shaftsbury, McCormack of Burlington, O’Sullivan of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Troiano of Stannard, Webb of Shelburne, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development; energy; weatherization; workforce training; contractor standards

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to promote economic development, foster training in the building trades, and advance the goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan. It would do so by creating an enforcement mechanism for building energy standards, creating minimum competency requirements for building contractors, incentivizing contractor training and certification, and extending the reach of current energy efficiency programs by:

- Creating an enforcement unit to advise, train, and inspect the work of all rehabilitation and new construction projects under the jurisdiction of

- 1 Vermont building energy codes (Residential Building Energy Standards
2 and Commercial Building Energy Standards).
- 3 • Setting new-construction building energy standards to “net-zero” by 2022.
 - 4 • Creating a building general contractor licensing system.
 - 5 • Requiring knowledge of building science as appropriate to the trade for all
6 building trade licenses (e.g., general contractor, electrical, plumbing, oil
7 burner installers, etc.)
 - 8 • Incentivizing training and certification for general contractors and their
9 staff.
 - 10 • Encouraging and incentivizing inclusion of building science in high school
11 STEM and vocational curriculum.
 - 12 • Expanding eligibility for the Weatherization Assistance Program and
13 related Efficiency Vermont programs from 80 percent of Area Median
14 Income to 120 percent Area Median Income and serving this group with a
15 sliding scale of subsidies such that estimated energy cost savings on each
16 project exceeds debt service on copayment by at least 20 percent (i.e., if
17 estimated first-year cost savings is \$100.00, debt service on copayment is
18 no more than \$80.00).

19 An act relating to building energy standards and performance

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)