

1 S.337

2 Introduced by Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

3 Date:

4 Subject: Public service; regulatory authority of the Public Utility Commission;  
5 energy efficiency programs and services

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow, for a  
7 period of three years, energy efficiency entities to use a portion of their  
8 budgets on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the thermal and  
9 transportation sectors.

10 An act relating to energy efficiency entities and programs to reduce  
11 greenhouse gas emissions in the thermal energy and transportation sectors

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

13 Sec. 1. ALLOWANCE OF THE USE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

14 CHARGE FUNDS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

15 REDUCTION PROGRAMS

16 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law or order of the Public Utility  
17 Commission (PUC) to the contrary, for the calendar years 2021–2023, the PUC  
18 shall authorize any entity appointed to provide electric energy efficiency and  
19 conservation programs and measures pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(A) to  
20 spend a portion, in an amount to be determined by the PUC but not to exceed

1 \$2,000,000.00 per year, of its electric resource acquisition budget determined  
2 pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(3)(B) on programs, measures, and services that  
3 reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the thermal energy or transportation  
4 sectors, provided that the entity's total electric resource acquisition budget for  
5 2021–2023 does not exceed the entity's total electric resource acquisition  
6 budget for 2018–2020.

7 (b) Programs, measures, and services authorized pursuant to subsection (a)  
8 of this section shall:

9 (1) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the thermal energy or  
10 transportation sectors, or both.

11 (2) Have a nexus with electricity usage.

12 (3) Be additive and complementary to and shall not replace or be in  
13 competition with electric utility energy transformation projects pursuant to  
14 30 V.S.A. § 8005(a)(3) such that they result in the largest possible greenhouse  
15 gas emissions reductions in a cost-effective manner.

16 (4) Be delivered on a statewide basis. However, if any of these funds  
17 are used for services specific to a retail electricity provider, the funds used for  
18 services to each retail electricity provider shall be in proportion to the energy  
19 efficiency charge collected in that territory.

1       (c) An entity that is approved to provide a program, measure, or service  
2       pursuant to this section shall provide the program, measure, or service in  
3       cooperation with a retail electricity provider.

4           (1) The entity shall not claim any savings and reductions in fossil fuel  
5       consumption and in greenhouse gas emissions by the customers of the retail  
6       electricity provider resulting from the program, measure, or service if the  
7       provider elects to offer the program, measure, or service pursuant to 30 V.S.A.  
8       § 8005(a)(3) unless the entity and provider agree upon how savings and  
9       reductions should be accounted for, apportioned, and claimed.

10          (2) The PUC shall develop standards and methods to appropriately  
11       measure the effectiveness of the programs, measures, and services in relation  
12       to the entity's Demand Resources Plan proceeding.

13       (d) Any funds spent on programs, measures, and services pursuant to this  
14       section shall not be counted towards the calculation of funds used by a retail  
15       electricity provider for energy transformation projects pursuant to 30 V.S.A.  
16       § 8005(a)(3) and the calculation of project costs pursuant to 30 V.S.A.  
17       § 8005(a)(3)(C)(iv).

18       (e) On or before April 30, 2021 and every April 30 for three years  
19       thereafter, the PUC shall submit a written report to the House Committee on  
20       Energy and Technology and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and

1 Energy and on Finance concerning any programs, measures, and services  
2 approved pursuant to this section.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage and shall be repealed as of April 30,  
5 2024.