

1 H.63

2 Senator Pearson moves that the report of the Committee on Natural  
3 Resources and Energy be amended by inserting reader assistance headings and  
4 new Secs. 11, 12, 13, and 14 to read as follows:

5 \* \* \* Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee \* \* \*

6 Sec. 11. 2 V.S.A. chapter 17 is amended to read:

7 CHAPTER 17: JOINT ~~ENERGY~~ CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION  
8 COMMITTEE

9 § 601. CREATION OF COMMITTEE

10 (a) There is created a Joint ~~Energy~~ Carbon Emissions Reduction  
11 Committee whose membership shall be appointed each biennial session of the  
12 General Assembly. The Committee shall consist of ~~four~~ five Representatives,  
13 at least one from ~~each major party~~ the Committees on Appropriations, on  
14 Commerce and Economic Development, on Energy and Technology, and on  
15 Transportation, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and ~~four~~ five  
16 members of the Senate, at least one from ~~each major party~~ the Committees on  
17 Appropriations, on Finance, on Natural Resources and Energy, and on  
18 Transportation, to be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

19 (b) The Committee shall elect a chair, and vice chair, ~~and clerk and shall~~  
20 ~~adopt rules of procedure~~. The Chair shall rotate biennially between the House  
21 and the Senate members. The Committee may meet during a session of the

1 General Assembly at the call of the Chair ~~or a majority of the members of the~~  
2 ~~Committee~~ and with the approval of the Speaker of the House and the  
3 President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Committee may meet up to five  
4 times during adjournment ~~subject to approval of the Speaker of the House and~~  
5 ~~the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.~~ A majority of the membership shall  
6 constitute a quorum.

7 (c) The Office of Legislative Council shall provide legal, professional, and  
8 administrative assistance to the Committee.

9 (d) For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in  
10 session, members of the Committee shall be entitled to the same per diem  
11 compensation and expense reimbursement as provided members of standing  
12 committees pursuant to section 406 of this title.

13 § 602. ~~EMPLOYEES; RULES~~

14 ~~(a) The Joint Energy Committee shall meet following the appointment of its~~  
15 ~~membership to organize and begin the conduct of its business.~~

16 ~~(b) The staff of the Office of Legislative Council shall provide professional~~  
17 ~~and clerical assistance to the Joint Committee.~~

18 ~~(c) For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in~~  
19 ~~session, members of the Joint Energy Committee shall be entitled to the same~~  
20 ~~per diem compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided~~  
21 ~~members of standing committees under section 406 of this title.~~

1       ~~(d) The Joint Energy Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and~~  
2       ~~maintain a file thereof. [Repealed.]~~

3       § 603. FUNCTIONS DUTIES

4       The Joint ~~Energy~~ Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee shall:

5           ~~(1) carry on a continuing review of all energy matters in the State and in~~  
6       ~~the northeast region of the United States, including energy sources, energy~~  
7       ~~distribution, energy costs, energy planning, energy conservation, and pertinent~~  
8       ~~related subjects;~~

9           ~~(2) work with, assist, and advise other committees of the General~~  
10       ~~Assembly, the Executive, and the public in energy related matters within their~~  
11       ~~respective responsibilities~~ provide oversight when the General Assembly is not  
12       in session of State policies and activities concerning and affecting carbon  
13       emissions from Vermont's electric, residential and commercial buildings, and  
14       transportation sectors.

15           \* \* \* VLITE and the Home Weatherization Assistance Fund \* \* \*

16       Sec. 12. 33 V.S.A. § 2501 is amended to read:

17       § 2501. HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE FUND

18           (a) There is created in the State Treasury a fund to be known as the Home  
19       Weatherization Assistance Fund to be expended by the Director of the State  
20       Office of Economic Opportunity in accordance with federal law and this  
21       chapter.

1 (b) The Fund shall be composed of the receipts from the gross receipts tax  
2 on retail sales of fuel imposed by section 2503 of this title, such funds as may  
3 be allocated from the Oil Overcharge Fund, such funds as may be allocated  
4 from the federal Low Income Energy Assistance Program, such funds as may  
5 be deposited or transferred into the Fund by the Vermont Low Income Trust  
6 for Electricity, and such other funds as may be appropriated by the General  
7 Assembly.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 13. HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;

10 VERMONT LOW INCOME TRUST FOR ELECTRICITY

11 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

12 (1) It is the energy policy of the State to substantially increase the  
13 number of homes weatherized each year in order to meet the goals set forth in  
14 10 V.S.A. § 581 and in the State Comprehensive Energy Plan.

15 (2) In its January 2019 report prepared for the General Assembly, *An*  
16 *Analysis of Decarbonization Methods in Vermont*, Resources for the Future  
17 stated that Vermont's Greenhouse Gas emissions are concentrated in two areas,  
18 heating and transportation. The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), in its  
19 related report, *Economic Benefits and Energy Savings Through Low-Cost*  
20 *Carbon Management*, issued in February 2019, found that energy efficiency  
21 initiatives, including home insulation and weatherization, are key to meeting

1 Vermont’s climate goals. As a result, the RAP recommended expanding the  
2 Home Weatherization Assistance Program pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 25.

3 (3) The mission of the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity  
4 (VLITE) is to fund projects that further the State’s energy policy and that assist  
5 Vermonters with low-income. VLITE uses dividends from Vermont Electric  
6 Power Company (VELCO) stock that it owns to fund such projects.

7 (4) VLITE investing the dividends from its VELCO stock in the Home  
8 Weatherization Assistance Program will implement the RAP recommendation  
9 to expand this Program, help the State achieve its carbon reduction goals  
10 pursuant to statute and the Comprehensive Energy Plan, and also assist  
11 Vermonters with low-income to reduce fossil fuel use and save money.

12 (b) The General Assembly finds that investing the dividends from VLITE’s  
13 VELCO stock in the Home Weatherization Assistance Program is consistent  
14 with VLITE’s mission and furthers the State’s energy plan and Greenhouse  
15 Gas reduction goals. As a result, the General Assembly strongly encourages  
16 VLITE to invest the dividends from its VELCO stock into the Home  
17 Weatherization Assistance Fund pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2501.

18 \* \* \* Weatherization Funding \* \* \*

19 Sec. 14. SUPPLEMENTAL WEATHERIZATION FUNDING

20 In fiscal year 2020, \$350,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to  
21 Efficiency Vermont for weatherization programs and services for residential

- 1 customers who do not qualify for the Home Weatherization Assistance
- 2 Program pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2502.
- 3 and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.