

1 Introduced by Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

2 Date:

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

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

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

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

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

13 CHARGE FUNDS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

14 REDUCTION PROGRAMS

15 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law or order of the Public Utility  
16 Commission (PUC) to the contrary, for the calendar years 2021–2023, the PUC  
17 shall authorize any entity appointed to provide electric energy efficiency and  
18 conservation programs and measures pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(A) to  
19 spend a portion, in an amount to be determined by the PUC but not to exceed  
20 \$2,000,000.00 per year, of its electric resource acquisition budget determined

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

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

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

10 (2) Have a nexus with electricity usage.

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

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

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

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

7           (2) The PUC shall develop standards and methods to appropriately  
8           measure the effectiveness of the programs, measures, and services in relation  
9           to the entity’s Demand Resources Plan proceeding.

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

15          (e) On or before April 30, 2021 and every April 30 for three years  
16          thereafter, the PUC shall submit a written report to the House Committee on  
17          Energy and Technology and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and  
18          Energy and on Finance concerning any programs, measures, and services  
19          approved pursuant to this section.

20          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

- 1        This act shall take effect on passage and shall be repealed as of April 30,
- 2        2024.