

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 an 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 resource acquisition budget on programs,

1 measures, and services that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the thermal  
2 energy or transportation sectors, provided that the entity’s total resource  
3 acquisition budget for 2021–2023 does not exceed the entity’s total resource  
4 acquisition budget for 2018–2020.

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

7 (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the thermal energy or  
8 transportation sectors, or both;

9 (2) result in the largest possible greenhouse gas emissions reductions in  
10 a cost-effective manner;

11 (3) have a nexus with electricity usage;

12 (4) be complementary to and shall not replace or be in competition with  
13 electric utility energy transformation projects pursuant to 30 V.S.A.  
14 § 8005(a)(3); and

15 (5) ensure that benefits realized in a retail electricity provider’s territory  
16 are in proportion to the energy efficiency charge collected in that territory.

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

20 (1) If an entity provides a program, measure, or service in cooperation  
21 with a retail electricity provider:

1           (A) 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; and

4           (B) the retail electricity provider may claim any savings and  
5           reductions in fossil fuel consumption and in greenhouse gas emissions by the  
6           customers of the provider resulting from the program, measure, or service to  
7           satisfy the energy transformation category requirements pursuant to 30 V.S.A.  
8           § 8005(a)(3).

9           (2) Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply if:

10           (A) the PUC develops standards and methods to appropriately  
11           allocate savings and reductions between the entity and the provider;

12           (B) those standards and methods are acceptable to the entity and  
13           retail electricity provider; and

14           (C) the PUC develops additional standards and methods to  
15           appropriately measure the effectiveness of the programs, measures, and  
16           services in relation to the entity’s Demand Resource Plan process.

17           (d) Any funds spent on programs, measures, and services pursuant to this  
18           section by a retail electricity provider that the PUC has appointed an energy  
19           efficiency entity pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(A) shall not be counted  
20           towards the calculation of funds used by that retail electricity provider for

1 energy transformation projects pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8005(a)(3) and the  
2 calculation of project costs pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8005(a)(3)(C)(iv).

3 (e) On or before January 1, 2021 and every January 1 for three years  
4 thereafter, the PUC shall submit a written report to the House Committee on  
5 Energy and Technology and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and  
6 Energy and on Finance concerning any programs, measures, and services  
7 approved pursuant to this section.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage and shall be repealed as of January 1,  
10 2024.