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S.146

Introduced by Senators Perchlik, Chittenden, Hardy, Hooker, Lyons and  
Pearson

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: State buildings; energy; renewable heating system

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
replacement of any fossil fuel space heating systems owned or controlled by  
the Department of Buildings and General Services, the Department of Forests,  
Parks and Recreation, and the Agency of Transportation with renewable space  
heating systems.

An act relating to space heating systems owned or controlled by the State

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The State has options to use non-fossil fuel space heating for  
buildings that are owned or controlled by the State that provide an equivalent  
or better heating and cooling source.

1           (2) In the State of Vermont, there are non-fossil fuel space heating  
2           options that use local fuel, including wood fuels such as cord wood, wood  
3           chips, and wood pellets.

4           (3) With 80 percent of funds spent on wood heating coming from the  
5           local Vermont economy as compared to only 20 percent when heating oil is  
6           used, the use of advanced wood heating systems supports the State's economy  
7           at large and specifically the forest products industry.

8           (4) Support for the State's forest products industry is particularly needed  
9           due to the slump in the demand for low-grade wood in the Northeast.

10           (5) The installation of wood heating systems will help to build an  
11           advanced wood heating industry sector in Vermont and the Northeast.

12           (6) The installation of non-fossil fuel space heating systems will likely  
13           save the State money on heating costs as compared to fossil fuels.

14           (7) The installation of non-fossil fuel space heating systems will help to  
15           meet the State's renewable energy goals and greenhouse gas reduction  
16           requirements, as required by 10 V.S.A. § 578 and 30 V.S.A. § 202b.

17           Sec. 2. FISCAL YEAR 2023; DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND

18                   GENERAL SERVICES; SPACE HEATING SYSTEMS;

19                   NON-FOSSIL FUELS; REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE; BACKUP

20                   HEATING

21           (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

1           (1) “Fossil fuel space heating system” is any space heating system that  
2           is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

3           (2) “Non-fossil fuel space heating system” means a space heating  
4           system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that exclusively utilizes  
5           renewable liquid fuel.

6           (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this  
7           section, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Department of Buildings and  
8           General Services shall only install non-fossil fuel space heating systems as the  
9           primary heating source in buildings owned or controlled by the Department.

10          (c) Exemption. The Commissioner may provide a written exemption to the  
11          replacement required in subsection (b) of this section if the Commissioner  
12          determines that it is financially impracticable to install a non-fossil fuel space  
13          heating system as a primary heating source.

14          (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a  
15          non-fossil fuel space heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if  
16          a non-fossil fuel backup space heating system is not available, the  
17          Commissioner may continue to use fossil fuel space heating systems as backup  
18          heating or as supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings  
19          owned or controlled by the Commissioner.

20          (e) Report. On or before January 15 each year, the Commissioner shall  
21          submit a report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and

1 the Senate Committee on Institutions with the basis of each exemption  
2 provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any fossil fuel space  
3 heating systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The provisions of  
4 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to  
5 be made under this subsection.

6 Sec. 3. FISCAL YEAR 2023; AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION; SPACE  
7 HEATING SYSTEMS; NON-FOSSIL FUELS; REPLACEMENT  
8 SCHEDULE; BACKUP HEATING

9 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

10 (1) “Fossil fuel space heating system” is any space heating system that  
11 is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

12 (2) “Non-fossil fuel space heating system” means a space heating  
13 system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that exclusively utilizes  
14 renewable liquid fuel.

15 (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this  
16 section, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Agency of Transportation shall only  
17 install non-fossil fuel space heating systems as the primary heating source in  
18 buildings owned or controlled by the Agency.

19 (c) Exemption. The Secretary may provide a written exemption to the  
20 replacement required in subsection (b) of this section if the Secretary

1 determines that it is financially impracticable to install a non-fossil fuel space  
2 heating system as a primary heating source.

3 (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a  
4 non-fossil fuel space heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if  
5 a non-fossil fuel backup space heating system is not available, the Agency may  
6 continue to use fossil fuel space heating systems as backup heating or as  
7 supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings owned or  
8 controlled by the Agency.

9 (e) Report. On or before January 15 each year, the Secretary shall submit a  
10 report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation with the basis of  
11 each exemption provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any  
12 fossil fuel space heating systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The  
13 provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply  
14 to the report to be made under this subsection.

15 Sec. 4. FISCAL YEAR 2023; DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND  
16 RECREATION; SPACE HEATING SYSTEMS; NON-FOSSIL  
17 FUELS; REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE; BACKUP HEATING

18 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

19 (1) “Fossil fuel space heating system” is any space heating system that  
20 is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

1           (2) “Non-fossil fuel space heating system” means a space heating  
2           system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that exclusively utilizes  
3           renewable liquid fuel.

4           (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this  
5           section, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Department of Forests, Parks and  
6           Recreation shall only install non-fossil fuel space heating systems as the  
7           primary heating source in buildings owned or controlled by the Department.

8           (c) Exemption. The Department may provide a written exemption to the  
9           replacement required in subsection (b) of this section if the Department  
10           determines that it is financially impracticable to install a non-fossil fuel space  
11           heating system as a primary heating source.

12           (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a  
13           non-fossil fuel space heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if  
14           a non-fossil fuel backup space heating system is not available, the Department  
15           may continue to use fossil fuel space heating systems as backup heating or as  
16           supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings owned or  
17           controlled by the Department.

18           (e) Report. On or before January 15 each year, the Secretary shall submit a  
19           report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate  
20           Committee on Corrections and Institutions on with the basis of each exemption  
21           provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any fossil fuel space

1 heating systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The provisions of  
2 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to  
3 be made under this subsection.

4 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.