

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 56

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 162. An act relating to the collective bargaining rights of teachers.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The House has considered bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 210. An act relating to rental housing health and safety and affordable housing.

S. 280. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles.

S. 286. An act relating to amending various public pension and other postemployment benefits.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the twenty-seventh day of April, 2022 he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 74. An act relating to modifications to Vermont's patient choice at end of life laws.

S. 163. An act relating to State court petitions for vulnerable noncitizen youth.

S. 239. An act relating to enrollment in Medicare supplemental insurance policies.

Bills Referred to Committee on Finance

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule were severally referred to the Committee on Finance:

H. 518. An act relating to municipal energy resilience initiatives.

H. 572. An act relating to the retirement allowance for interim educators.

H. 697. An act relating to eligibility of reserve forestland for enrollment in the Use Value Appraisal Program.

Message from the Governor Appointment Referred

A message was received from the Governor, by Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, submitting the following appointment, which was referred to the committee as indicated:

The nomination of

Richardson, Daniel P. of Montpelier - Superior Judge - from April 26, 2022 to March 31, 2027.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 553.

Senator Sears, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to eligibility of domestic partners for reimbursement from the Victims Compensation Program.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. § 5351, subdivision (2), by striking out “prohibited from legally marrying one another by 15 V.S.A. § 1a” and inserting in lieu thereof not be related by blood closer than would bar marriage under State law

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Sears, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Judiciary.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposals of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 661.

Senator White, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to licensure of mental health professionals.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 8, mental health professional licensure; study, in subdivision (b)(4), following “organizations” by inserting and a representative of Vermont Care Partners

Second: By striking out Sec. 10, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections with reader assistance headings to be Secs. 10–11 to read as follows:

* * * Position Created * * *

Sec. 10. CREATION OF POSITION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE; OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
REGULATION

There is created within the Secretary of State’s office one new classified Licensing Board Administrator position in the Office of Professional Regulation.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, except that Secs. 1–7 (continuing education units) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposals of amendment.

Senator Starr, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposals of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposals of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 720.

Senator Hooker, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to the system of care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Legislative Intent * * *

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) Individuals who qualify for developmental services and who meet a funding priority as outlined in the State system of care plan for developmental services receive full and complete information in plain language regarding their options and services.

(2) Individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members, allies, and advocates be respected and active participants in systems change activities, including payment reform, development of resources to comply with the federal home- and community-based services regulations, and development of additional residential service options. Information provided to stakeholders shall be in plain language.

* * * System of Care Plan * * *

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 8725 is amended to read:

§ 8725. SYSTEM OF CARE PLAN

(a) Every three years, the Department shall adopt a plan for the nature,

extent, allocation, and timing of services consistent with the principles of service set forth in section 8724 of this title that will be provided to people with developmental disabilities and their families. ~~Each plan shall include the following categories, which shall be adopted by rule pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25:~~

- ~~(1) priorities for continuation of existing programs or development of new programs;~~
- ~~(2) criteria for receiving services or funding;~~
- ~~(3) type of services provided; and~~
- ~~(4) a process for evaluating and assessing the success of programs.~~

* * *

~~(c) No Not later than 60 days before adopting the proposed plan, the Commissioner shall submit it to the Advisory Board established in section 8733 of this title, for advice and recommendations, except that the Commissioner shall submit those categories within the plan subject to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to the Advisory Board at least 30 days prior to filing the proposed plan in accordance with the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act. The Advisory Board shall provide the Commissioner with written comments on the proposed plan. It may also submit public comments pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.~~

* * *

(f) If the Department requires an extension to complete the system of care plan, it shall submit a written request indicating the anticipated completion date to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare at least two months prior to the expiration of the existing system of care plan. The request for an extension may be granted upon the approval of both the Chairs of the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

* * * Quality Services Reviews * * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. chapter 204A is amended to read:

CHAPTER 204A. SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ACT

Subchapter 1. Developmental Disabilities Act

* * *

§ 8723. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND
INDEPENDENT LIVING; DUTIES

The Department shall plan, coordinate, administer, monitor, and evaluate State and federally funded services for people with developmental disabilities and their families within Vermont. The Department shall be responsible for coordinating the efforts of all agencies and services, government and private, on a statewide basis in order to promote and improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Within the limits of available resources, the Department shall:

(1) promote the principles stated in section 8724 of this title and shall carry out all functions, powers, and duties required by this ~~chapter~~ subchapter by collaborating and consulting with people with developmental disabilities, their families, guardians, community resources, organizations, and people who provide services throughout the State;

* * *

§ 8724. PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE

Services provided to people with developmental disabilities and their families shall foster and adhere to the following principles:

* * *

(11) Trained staff. In order to ~~assure~~ ensure that the goals of this ~~chapter~~ subchapter are attained, all individuals who provide services to people with developmental disabilities and their families must receive training as required by section 8731 of this title.

* * *

§ 8727. COMPLAINTS; APPEALS

(a) Notice. The Department or agency or program funded by the Department shall provide notice:

(1) To an applicant or the applicant's guardian, as applicable, of the rights provided under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter, State and federal law, and any other available rights of appeal for violations of any of those rights.

* * *

§ 8733. ADVISORY BOARD

* * *

(e) Members shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary and actual expenses incurred in performance of their duties under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

Subchapter 2. Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities§ 8741. QUALITY SERVICES REVIEWS

The Department shall perform at least annual on-site quality assurance and improvement visits to the designated and specialized service agencies and other contracted agencies. The Department shall, at a minimum, assess the quality of services provided, including health and safety, in accordance with personalized service plans for the individuals served.

* * * Creation of New Position * * *

Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM DEVELOPER

(a) There is created a limited-service position of the Residential Program Developer within the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for the purposes of:

(1) expanding housing and residential services options for individuals with developmental disabilities, in accordance with federal home- and community-based services regulations;

(2) assisting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families navigate publicly and privately funded housing and residential services options;

(3) investigating public and private funding opportunities for residential program development for individuals with developmental disabilities;

(4) working with individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and allies to identify potential models for residential services;

(5) developing requests for proposals and identifying at least three pilot planning grants for different regions of the State focused on the needs identified in those regions; and

(6) working with appropriate designated and specialized service agencies or other providers to implement selected pilots.

(b) In fiscal year 2023, \$102,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living from the Global Commitment Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) home- and community-based services monies to fund the Residential Program Developer position established in subsection (a) of this section.

* * * Housing and Residential Service Pilot Planning Grants * * *

Sec. 5. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PILOT PLANNING GRANTS

(a) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall work with the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council and a statewide self-advocacy group to review housing models in other states for the purpose of informing the pilot planning grants developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b)(1) In fiscal year 2023, \$500,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living from the Global Commitment Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) home- and community-based services monies to develop housing and residential service pilot planning grants in at least three regions of the State, in partnership with designated and specialized service agencies, for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Department shall consult with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and other housing providers to prioritize successful housing projects for adults with developmental disabilities. The Department shall issue a request for proposals seeking entities to develop regional pilot planning grants with not more than one grant per designated agency catchment area.

(2) The pilot planning grants shall:

(A) reflect the diversity of needs expressed by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, including individuals with high support needs who require 24-hour care and those with specific communication needs;

(B) be consistent with the federal home- and community-based services regulations;

(C) include new service-supported housing models; and

(D) include a vision statement, the number of and description of the support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities anticipated to be served, a draft budget, and an implementation plan.

(c)(1) The Department shall convene a steering committee to provide advice and guidance as it develops and selects the pilot planning grants required pursuant to this section.

(2) The steering committee shall be composed of the following members:

(A) three individuals with a developmental disability, appointed by the Green Mountain Self Advocates;

(B) two family members of individuals with a developmental disability, appointed by the Vermont Family Network;

(C) two advocates who are either individuals with a developmental disability or a family member of an individual with a developmental disability, appointed by the State Program Standing Committee and the Advisory Board established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 8733; and

(D) two representatives of the designated and specialized service agencies, appointed by Vermont Care Partners.

(3)(A) The steering committee shall have the technical, legal, and administrative assistance of the Department.

(B) The steering committee shall cease to exist on January 1, 2024.

(4) Information provided for the steering committee's consideration shall be in plain language.

(5) Members of the steering committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department.

(d) On or before April 15, 2023, the Department shall submit a report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare describing the pilot planning grant selection process, the implementation plan, and any resources necessary for implementation of selected pilots.

* * * Payment Reform and Conflict-Free Case Management * * *

Sec. 6. PAYMENT REFORM AND CONFLICT-FREE CASE MANAGEMENT

(a) At a minimum, the following shall be included in the payment reform process impacting individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and designated and specialized service agencies:

(1) in addition to any standardized assessment utilized by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, a process for consideration of additional information relevant to the life circumstances of service recipients or applicants;

(2) in addition to any standardized rates or rate ranges developed by the Department, a process for consideration of budgets to reflect the individualized

support needs of service recipients or applicants; and

(3) a process for evaluating the fiscal and service impact on individual service recipients and the designated and specialized service agencies.

(b)(1) Prior to implementing the federally required conflict-free case management system, the Department shall seek and consider input from a variety of stakeholders, including individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, designated and specialized service agencies, and other providers and advocates.

(2) As part of the changes necessary to come into federal compliance, consideration shall be given to performing initial clinical eligibility and service planning within the Department.

(c) On or before February 1, 2023, the Department shall present any proposed policy changes related to payment reform and conflict-free case management to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and seek and consider input from the Committees.

* * * HCBS Spending Plan Amendment * * *

Sec. 7. HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE SPENDING PLAN AMENDMENT

The Agency of Human Services shall seek to amend its federal Home- and Community-Based Service Spending Plan to enable the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living to use Global Commitment Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) home- and community-based services monies to fund the new Residential Program Developer position created in Sec. 4 of this act and the pilot planning grants in Sec. 5 of this act.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

This section and Sec. 2 (system of care plan) shall take effect on passage, and the remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Westman, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare with the following amendments thereto:

First: By striking out Sec. 3, 18 V.S.A. chapter 204A, and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

Second: In Sec. 4, Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; residential program developer, in subsection (b), by striking out “appropriated” and inserting in lieu thereof allocated

Third: In Sec. 5, Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; development of housing and residential services pilot planning grants, subsection (b), subdivision (1), in the first sentence, by striking out “appropriated” and inserting in lieu thereof allocated

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposals of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and the recommendation of proposal of amendment of the Committee on Health and Welfare was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

Thereupon, the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare, as amended, was agreed to and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Third Reading Ordered

H. 287.

Senator Hooker, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to patient financial assistance policies and medical debt protection.

Reported that the bill ought to passage in concurrence.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 517.

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

An act relating to the Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program.

Proposal of Amendment; Consideration Postponed**H. 739.**

House bill entitled:

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senators Perchlik, Chittenden, Clarkson, Hardy, Hooker, MacDonald, Pearson, Pollina and Ram Hinsdale moved to amend the Senate proposal of amendment by striking out Sec. 17, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 25b, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 17. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 25b is added to read:

Sec. 25b. STATE BUILDINGS; HEATING SYSTEMS; DEPARTMENTS OF BUILDINGS AND GENERAL SERVICES AND OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION; AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

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

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

(b) Replacement system.

(1) Space heating system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, beginning in fiscal year 2024, the Department of Buildings and General Services; the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; and the Agency of Transportation shall only install non-fossil fuel space heating systems as the primary heating source in buildings owned or controlled by each Department or Agency, respectively.

(2) Exemption. For any building owned or controlled by each Department or Agency, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services; the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation; or the Secretary of Transportation, respectively, may provide a written exemption to the replacement required in subdivision (1) of this subsection if the Commissioner or Secretary determines that it is financially impracticable to install a non-fossil fuel space heating system as a primary heating source.

(c) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, for any building owned or controlled by each Department or Agency, respectively, after a non-fossil fuel space heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if a non-fossil fuel backup space heating system is not available, the Commissioner or Secretary, respectively, may continue to use fossil fuel space heating systems as backup heating or as supplemental heating during peak heating periods.

(d) Report. On or before January 15 each year, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services; the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation; and the Secretary of Transportation shall, for any building owned or controlled by each Department or Agency, respectively, report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions with the basis of each exemption provided pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section, and any fossil fuel space heating systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate proposal of amendment be amended as recommended by Senators Perchlik, Chittenden, Clarkson, Hardy, Hooker, MacDonald, Pearson, Pollina and Ram Hinsdale?, Senator MacDonald moved that consideration be postponed until later in the legislative day.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 715.

Senator Bray, for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to the Clean Heat Standard.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) All of the legislative findings made in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 2, the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020, remain true and are incorporated by reference here.

(2) Under the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020 and 10 V.S.A. § 578, Vermont has a legal obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to specific levels by 2025, 2030, and 2050.

(3) The Vermont Climate Council was established under the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020 and was tasked with, among other things, recommending necessary legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Initial Vermont Climate Action Plan calls for the General Assembly to adopt legislation authorizing the Public Utility Commission to administer the Clean Heat Standard consistent with the recommendations of the Energy Action Network’s Clean Heat Standard Working Group.

(4) As required by the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020, the Vermont Climate Council published the Initial Vermont Climate Action Plan on December 1, 2021. As noted in that plan, over one-third of Vermont’s greenhouse gas emissions come from the thermal sector. Approximately 72 percent of Vermont’s thermal energy use is fossil-based, including 43 percent from the combustion of fossil gas and propane and 29 percent from the burning of heating oil.

(5) To meet the greenhouse gas emission reductions required by the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020, Vermont needs to transition away from its current carbon-intensive building heating practices to lower-carbon alternatives. It also needs to do this equitably, recognizing economic effects on energy users, especially energy-burdened users; on the workforce currently providing these services; and on the overall economy.

Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. chapter 94 is added to read:

CHAPTER 94. CLEAN HEAT STANDARD

§ 8121. CLEAN HEAT STANDARD

(a) The Clean Heat Standard is established. Under this program, obligated parties shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the Vermont thermal sector by retiring required amounts of clean heat credits to meet the thermal sector portion of the greenhouse gas emission reduction obligations of the Global Warming Solutions Act.

(b) By rule or order, the Commission shall establish or adopt a system of tradeable clean heat credits earned from the delivery of clean heat measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(c) An obligated party may obtain the required amount of clean heat credits through delivery of eligible clean heat measures, through contracts for delivery of eligible clean heat measures, through the market purchase of clean heat credits, or through delivery of eligible clean heat measures by a designated statewide default delivery agent.

(d) The Public Utility Commission shall adopt rules and may issue orders to design and implement the Clean Heat Standard.

§ 8122. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Clean heat credit” means a tradeable, non-tangible commodity that represents the amount of greenhouse gas reduction caused by a clean heat measure. The Commission shall establish a system of recognition for clean heat credits pursuant to this chapter.

(2) “Clean heat measure” means fuel and technologies delivered and installed to end-use customers in Vermont that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Clean heat measures shall not include switching from one fossil fuel use to another fossil fuel use. The Commission may adopt a list of acceptable actions that qualify as clean heat measures.

(3) “Commission” means the Public Utility Commission.

(4) “Default delivery agent” means the entity designated by the Commission to provide services that generate tradeable clean heat credits.

(5) “Entity” means any individual, trustee, agency, partnership, association, corporation, company, municipality, political subdivision, or any other form of organization.

(6) “Heating fuel” means fossil-based heating fuel, including oil, propane, natural gas, coal, and kerosene.

(7) “Obligated party” means:

(A) a regulated natural gas utility serving customers in Vermont; or

(B) for other heating fuels, the entity that makes the first sale of the heating fuel into or in the State for consumption within the State.

(8) “Thermal sector” has the same meaning as the “Residential, Commercial and Industrial Fuel Use” sector as used in the Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast.

§ 8123. CLEAN HEAT STANDARD COMPLIANCE

(a) Required amounts.

(1) The Commission shall establish the number of clean heat credits that each obligated party is required to retire each calendar year. The size of the annual requirement shall be set at a pace sufficient for Vermont’s thermal sector to achieve lifecycle carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emission reductions consistent with the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 578(a) expressed as lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to subsection 8124(d) of this title.

(2) Annual requirements shall be expressed as a percent of each obligated party’s contribution to the thermal sector’s lifecycle CO₂e emissions

in the previous year with the annual percentages being the same for all parties. To ensure understanding among obligated parties, the Commission shall, in a timely manner, publicly provide a description of the annual requirements in plain terms.

(3) The Commission may adjust the annual requirements for good cause after notice and opportunity for public process. Good cause may include a shortage of clean heat credits or undue adverse financial impacts on particular customers or demographic segments. Any downward adjustment shall be allowed for only a short, temporary period.

(4) To support the ability of the obligated parties to plan for the future, the Commission shall establish annual clean heat credit requirements for 10 years with the required amounts being updated so 10 years' worth of requirements are always available. Every three years, the Commission shall extend the requirements three years, shall assess emission reductions actually achieved in the thermal sector, and, if necessary, revise the pace of clean heat credit requirements for future years to ensure that the thermal sector portion of the emission reduction requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 578(a) for 2030 and 2050 will be achieved.

(b) Annual registration.

(1) Each entity that sells heating fuel into or in Vermont shall register annually with the Commission by an annual deadline established by the Commission. The form and information required in the registration shall be determined by the Commission and shall include all data necessary to establish annual requirements under this chapter. The Commission shall use the information provided in the registration to determine whether the entity shall be considered an obligated party and the amount of its annual requirement.

(2) At a minimum, the Commission shall require registration information to include legal name, doing business as name if applicable, municipality, state, type of heating fuel sold, and the volume of sales of heating fuels into or in the State for final sale or consumption in the State in the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year in which the entity is registering with the Commission.

(3) Each year, and not later than 30 days following the annual registration deadline established by the Commission, the Commission shall share complete registration information of obligated parties with the Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Service for purposes of conducting the Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast and meeting the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 591(b)(3).

(4) The Commission shall maintain, and update annually, a list of registered entities on its website that contains the required registration information, except that the public list shall not include heating fuel volumes reported.

(5) For any entity not registered, the first registration form shall be due 30 days after the first sale of heating fuel to a location in Vermont.

(6) Clean heat requirements shall transfer to entities that acquire an obligated party.

(c) Early action credits. Beginning on January 1, 2022, clean heat measures that are installed and provide emission reductions are creditable and therefore count towards the future clean heat credit requirements of an obligated party. Upon the establishment of the clean heat credit system, entities may register credits for actions taken starting in 2022.

(d) Equitable distribution of clean heat measures.

(1) The Clean Heat Standard shall be designed and implemented to enhance social equity by minimizing adverse impacts to low-income and moderate-income customers and those households with the highest energy burdens. The design shall ensure all customers have an equitable opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, clean heat measures regardless of heating fuel used, income level, geographic location, or homeownership status.

(2) A substantial portion of clean heat credits retired by each obligated party shall be sourced from clean heat measures delivered to low-income and moderate-income customers. The portion of each obligated party's required amount needed to satisfy the annual Clean Heat Standard requirement shall be at least 16 percent from low-income customers and 16 percent from moderate-income customers. The definitions of low-income customer and moderate-income customer shall be set by the Commission in consultation with the Equity Advisory Group and in alignment with other existing definitions.

(3) The Commission may consider frontloading the credit requirements for low-income and moderate-income customers so that the greatest proportion of clean heat measures reach low-income and moderate-income Vermonters in the earlier years.

(4) In order to best serve low-income and moderate-income customers, the Commission shall have authority to change these portions and the criteria used to define low-income and moderate-income customers for good cause, after notice and opportunity for public process.

(5) In determining whether to exceed the minimum percentages of clean heat measures that must be delivered to low-income and moderate-income

customers, the Commission shall take into account participation in other government-sponsored low-income and moderate-income weatherization programs.

(6) A clean heat measure delivered to a customer qualifying for a government-sponsored, low-income energy subsidy shall qualify for clean heat credits required by subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(e) Credit banking. The Commission shall allow an obligated party that has met its annual requirement in a given year to retain clean heat credits in excess of that amount for future sale or application to the obligated party's annual requirements in future compliance periods as determined by the Commission.

(f) Default delivery agent.

(1) An obligated party may meet its annual requirement through a designated default delivery agent appointed by the Commission. The default delivery agent shall deliver creditable clean heat measures to Vermont homes and businesses when:

(A) an obligated party chooses to assign its annual requirement to the default delivery agent; or

(B) an obligated party fails to produce or acquire its required amount of clean heat credits.

(2) The Commission shall designate the default delivery agent. The default delivery agent shall be a single statewide entity capable of providing a variety of clean heat measures and contracted for a multiyear period through a competitive procurement process. The entity selected as the default delivery agent may also be a market participant but shall not be an obligated party.

(3) By rule or order, the Commission shall adopt annually the cost per clean heat credit to be paid to the default delivery agent by an obligated party that chooses this option. In adjusting the default delivery agent credit cost, the Commission shall consider the default delivery agent's anticipated costs to deliver clean heat measures and costs borne by customers, among other factors determined by the Commission. Changes to the cost of credits shall take effect not less than 180 days after adopted.

(4) All funds received from noncompliance payments pursuant to subdivision (g)(2) of this section shall be used by the default delivery agent to provide clean heat measures to low-income customers.

(g) Enforcement.

(1) The Commission shall have the authority to enforce the requirements of this chapter and any rules or orders adopted to implement the provisions of this chapter. The Commission may use its existing authority under this title. As part of an enforcement order, the Commission may order penalties and injunctive relief.

(2) The Commission may order an obligated party that fails to retire the number of clean heat credits required in a given year, including the required amounts from low-income and moderate-income customers, to make a noncompliance payment to the default delivery agent. The per-credit amount of the noncompliance payment shall be three times the amount established by the Commission under subsection (f) of this section for timely per-credit payments to the default delivery agent.

(3) Any statements or other representations made by obligated parties related to compliance with the Clean Heat Standard are subject to the Commission's enforcement authority, including the power to investigate and assess penalties, under this title.

(h) Records. The Commission shall establish requirements for the types of records to be submitted by obligated parties, a record retention schedule for required records, and a process for verification of records and data submitted in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

(i) Reports.

(1) For purposes of this subsection, "standing committees" means the House Committees on Energy and Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy.

(2) After the adoption of the rules implementing this chapter, the Commission shall submit a written report to the standing committees detailing the efforts undertaken to establish the Clean Heat Standard pursuant to this chapter.

(3) On or before August 31 of each year following the year in which the rules are first adopted under this section, the Commission shall submit to the standing committees a written report detailing the implementation and operation of the Clean Heat Standard. This report shall include an assessment on the equitable adoption of clean heat measures required by subsection (d) of this section, along with recommendations to increase participation for the households with the highest energy burdens. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

§ 8124. TRADEABLE CLEAN HEAT CREDITS

(a) By rule or order, the Commission shall establish or adopt a system of tradeable clean heat credits that may be earned by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the delivery of clean heat measures. While credit denominations may be in simple terms for public understanding and ease of use, the underlying value shall be based on units of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). The system shall provide a process for the recognition, approval, and monitoring of the clean heat credits. The Department of Public Service shall perform the verification of clean heat credit claims and submit results of the verification and evaluation to the Commission annually.

(b) Clean heat credits shall be based on the lifecycle CO₂e emission reductions that result from the delivery of eligible clean heat measures to end-use customer locations into or in Vermont. For clean heat measures that are installed, the value of the clean heat credits in each year shall be the lifecycle CO₂e emissions of the heating fuel avoided by the installation of the measure, minus the lifecycle CO₂e emissions of the energy that is used instead. Eligible clean heat measures delivered to or installed in Vermont shall include:

- (1) thermal energy efficiency improvements and weatherization;
- (2) the supply of sustainably sourced biofuels;
- (3) renewable natural gas;
- (4) green hydrogen;
- (5) cold-climate heat pumps and efficient electric appliances providing thermal end uses;
- (6) advanced wood heating; and
- (7) renewable energy-based district heating services.

(c) For pipeline renewable natural gas and other renewably generated natural gas substitutes to be eligible, an obligated party shall purchase renewable natural gas and its associated renewable attributes and demonstrate that it has secured a contractual pathway for the physical delivery of the gas from the point of injection into the pipeline to the obligated party's delivery system.

(d) To promote certainty for obligated parties and clean heat providers, the Commission shall, by rule or order, establish a schedule of lifecycle emission rates for heating fuels and eligible clean heat measures. The schedule shall be based on transparent and accurate emissions accounting adapting the Argonne National Laboratory GREET Model, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) modeling, or an alternative of comparable analytical rigor to

achieve the thermal sector greenhouse gas emissions reductions necessary in order to meet the sector's share of the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 578(a), to accurately account for emissions from biogenic and geologic sources, and to deter substantial unintended harmful consequences. The schedule may be amended based upon changes in technology or evidence on emissions, but clean heat credits previously awarded shall not be adjusted retroactively.

(e) Clean heat credits shall be "time stamped" for the year in which the clean heat measure is delivered as well as each subsequent year during which the measure produces emission reductions. Only clean heat credits with the current year time stamp, and credits banked from previous years, shall be eligible to satisfy the current year obligation.

(f) Clean heat credits can be earned only in proportion to the deemed or measured thermal sector greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved by a clean heat measure delivered in Vermont. Other emissions offsets, wherever located, shall not be eligible measures.

(g)(1) All eligible clean heat measures that are delivered in Vermont shall be eligible for clean heat credits and may be retired and count towards an obligated party's emission reduction obligations, regardless of who creates or delivers them and regardless of whether their creation or delivery was required by other State policies and programs. This includes individual initiatives, emission reductions resulting from the State's energy efficiency programs, the low-income weatherization program, and the Renewable Energy Standard Tier 3 program.

(2) The Commission shall determine whether the total value of a clean heat credit for an installed measure shall be claimed in the year it is installed or whether the annual value of that credit shall be applied each year of the measure's life.

(3) The Commission shall determine whether to require a certain portion of clean heat credits be acquired each year from weatherization projects in order to further the State's building efficiency goals. The Commission shall recommend legislative changes, if needed, to accomplish this.

(h)(1) The Commission shall create a registration system to lower administrative barriers to individuals and businesses seeking to register qualified actions eligible to earn clean heat credits and to facilitate the transfer of credits to obligated parties. The Commission may hire a third-party consultant to evaluate, develop, implement, maintain, and support a database or other means for tracking clean heat credits and compliance with the annual requirements of obligated parties.

(2) The system shall require entities to submit the following information to receive the credit: the location of the clean heat measure, whether the customer or tenant has a low or moderate income, the type of property where the clean heat measure was installed or sold, the type of clean heat measure, and any other information as required by the Commission.

(i) Nothing in this chapter shall limit the authority of the Secretary of Natural Resources to compile and publish the Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 582.

§ 8125. CLEAN HEAT STANDARD TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

(a) The Commission shall establish the Clean Heat Standard Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to assist the Commission in the ongoing management of the Clean Heat Standard. Its duties shall include:

(1) establishing and revising the lifecycle carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions accounting methodology to be used to determine each obligated party's annual requirement pursuant to subdivision 8123(a)(2) of this chapter;

(2) establishing and revising the clean heat credit value for different clean heat measures;

(3) periodically assessing and reporting to the Commission on the sustainability of the production of clean heat measures by considering factors including greenhouse gas emissions; carbon sequestration and storage; human health; land use changes; ecological and biodiversity impacts; groundwater and surface water impacts; air, water, and soil pollution; and impacts on food costs;

(4) setting the lifespan length of clean heat measures for the purpose of calculating credit values;

(5) establishing credit values for each year over a clean heat measure's life, including adjustments to account for increasing interactions between clean heat measures over time so as to not double-count emission reductions;

(6) facilitating the program's coordination with other energy programs;

(7) calculating the impact of the cost of clean heat credits and the cost savings associated with delivered clean heat measures on per-unit heating fuel prices;

(8) coordinating with the Agency of Natural Resources to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved in another sector through the implementation of the Clean Heat Standard are not double-counted in the Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast produced by the Agency of Natural Resources;

(9) advising the Commission on the periodic assessment and revision requirement established in subdivision 8123(a)(4) of this chapter; and

(10) any other matters referred to the TAG by the Commission.

(b) Members of the TAG shall be appointed by the Commission and shall include the Department of Public Service, the Agency of Natural Resources, and parties who have, or whose representatives have, expertise in one or more of the following areas: technical and analytical expertise in measuring lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions; energy modeling and data analysis; clean heat measures and energy technologies; sustainability and non-greenhouse gas emissions strategies designed to reduce and avoid impacts to the environment; delivery of heating fuels in cold climates; and climate change mitigation policy and law. The Commission shall accept and review motions to join the TAG from interested parties who have, or whose representatives have, expertise in one or more of the areas listed in this subsection. Members who are not otherwise compensated by their employer shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

(c) The Commission shall hire a third-party consultant responsible for developing clean heat measure characterizations and relevant assumptions, including CO₂e lifecycle emissions analyses. The TAG shall provide input and feedback on the consultant's work.

(d) Emission analyses and associated assumptions developed by the consultant shall be reviewed and approved annually by the Commission. In reviewing the consultant's work, the Commission shall provide a public comment period on the work. The Commission may approve or adjust the consultant's work as it deems necessary based on its review and the public comments received.

§ 8126. CLEAN HEAT STANDARD EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP

(a) The Commission shall establish the Clean Heat Standard Equity Advisory Group to assist the Commission in developing and implementing the Clean Heat Standard in a manner that ensures an equitable share of clean heat measures are delivered to low-income and moderate-income Vermonters, and that low-income and moderate-income Vermonters who are not early participants in clean heat measures are not negatively impacted in their ability to afford heating fuel. Its duties shall include:

(1) providing feedback to the Commission on strategies for engaging low-income and moderate-income Vermonters in the public process around development of the Clean Heat Standard;

(2) supporting the Commission in assessing whether customers are equitably served by clean heat measures and how to increase equity in this area;

(3) identifying actions needed to provide better service to and mitigate the fuel price impacts calculated in section 8125 of this title on low-income and moderate-income customers;

(4) assisting the Commission in defining low-income and moderate-income customers;

(5) recommending any additional programs, incentives, or funding needed to support low-income and moderate-income customers, and organizations that provide social services to Vermonters, in affording heating fuel and other heating expenses;

(6) providing feedback to the Commission on the impact of the Clean Heat Standard on the everyday experience of low-income and moderate-income Vermonters; and

(7) providing information to the Commission on the challenges renters face in being equitably served by clean heat measures and recommendations to ensure that renters have equitable access to clean heat measures.

(b) The Clean Heat Standard Equity Advisory Group shall consist of up to 10 members appointed by the Commission and at a minimum shall include at least one representative from each of the following groups: the Department of Public Service; the Department for Children and Families Office of Economic Opportunity; community action agencies; Efficiency Vermont; individuals with socioeconomically, racially, and geographically diverse backgrounds; renters and rental property owners; and a member of the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association. Members who are not otherwise compensated by their employer shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

§ 8127. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid or in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or in violation of the Constitution or laws of Vermont, the invalidity or the violation shall not affect other provisions of this chapter that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this chapter are severable.

§ 8128. INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Clean Heat Standard be designed and implemented in a manner that achieves Vermont's thermal sector

greenhouse gas emissions reductions necessary to meet the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 578(a), minimizes costs to customers, and recognizes that affordable heating is essential for Vermonters. It shall minimize adverse impacts to low-income and moderate-income customers and those households with the highest energy burdens.

Sec. 3. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Commencement.

(1) On or before August 31, 2022, the Public Utility Commission shall commence a proceeding to implement Sec. 2 (Clean Heat Standard) of this act.

(2) On or before October 1, 2023, the Commission shall commence rulemaking to implement Sec. 2 (Clean Heat Standard) of this act. The Commission shall finally adopt these rules by July 1, 2024, unless this period is extended by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

(b) Facilitator. On or before October 1, 2022, the Commission shall hire a third-party consultant to design and conduct public engagement. The Commission may use funds appropriated under this act on hiring the consultant.

(c) Public engagement process. Before commencing rulemaking, the Commission shall use the forms of public engagement described in this subsection to inform the design and implementation of the Clean Heat Standard. Any failure by the Commission to meet the specific procedural requirements of this section shall not affect the validity of the Commission's actions.

(1) The Commission shall hold at least six public meetings and of those meetings three shall allow members of the public to participate in person and remotely. The meetings shall be held in at least six different geographically diverse counties of the State. The meetings shall be recorded and publicly posted on the Commission's website.

(2) In order to receive focused feedback from specific constituents, the Commission, with the assistance of the consultant, shall also hold at least four meetings using deliberative polling. The facilitator shall assist the Commission in developing a format for using deliberative polling at the meetings. Each of these meetings shall focus on seeking input from a specific group, including heating fuel dealers; low-income, moderate-income, and fixed-income customers and advocates; and customers who use large amounts of heating fuel.

(3) The Commission shall hold at least two workshops to solicit the input of potentially affected parties. To reach as many potentially interested

entities as possible, such as Vermont's fuel wholesalers and retail fuel suppliers, renewable energy advocacy organizations, environmental and consumer advocacy organizations, organizations that specialize in serving low- and moderate-income Vermonters, organizations that specialize in serving older Vermonters, entities that provide weatherization services, energy transition providers, regional planning commissions, municipal energy commissions, community action agencies, environmental justice organizations, financial institutions that specialize in implementing low-income financing programs, affordable housing advocates, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and regional development corporations, the Commission shall provide notice of the workshops on its website, shall publish the notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county of Vermont, and shall also provide direct notice to any person that requests direct notice or to whom the Commission may consider direct notice appropriate. The Commission also shall provide an opportunity for submission of written comments, which the notice shall include.

(d) Draft proposed rules. The Commission shall publicly publish draft proposed rules and provide notice of it to the stakeholders who registered their names and e-mail addresses with the Commission during the workshops. The Commission shall provide a 30-day comment period on the draft and accept written comments from the public and stakeholders. The Commission shall incorporate necessary changes in response to the public comments before filing the proposed rules with the Secretary of State and the Legislative Committee on Rules.

(e) Advertising. The Commission shall use funding appropriated in this act on advertising the public meetings in order to provide notice to a wide variety of segments of the public.

(f) Final rules. On or before July 1, 2024, the Commission shall adopt final rules to take effect on January 1, 2025 that initially implements Sec. 2 (Clean Heat Standard) of this act. In its review of the final proposed rules, the Legislative Committee on Rules (LCAR) shall consult with the committees of jurisdiction pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 817(c).

(g) Consultant. On or before January 15, 2023, the Commission shall contract with a consultant to assist with implementation of 30 V.S.A. § 8124 (clean heat credits).

(h) Funding. On or before January 15, 2023, the Commission shall report to the General Assembly on suggested revenue streams that may be used or created to fund the Commission's administration of the Clean Heat Standard program.

(i) Check-back reports.

(1) On or before February 15, 2023 and January 15, 2024, the Commission shall submit a written report to and hold hearings with the House Committees on Energy and Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy detailing the efforts undertaken to establish the Clean Heat Standard. The reports shall include, to the extent available, estimates of the impact of the Clean Heat Standard on customers, including impacts to customer rates and fuel bills for participating and nonparticipating customers, net impacts on total spending on energy for thermal sector end uses, fossil fuel reductions, greenhouse gas emission reductions and, if possible, impacts on economic activity and employment. In conducting this analysis, the Commission shall incorporate the social cost of carbon as established by the Vermont Climate Council, take into account the economic modeling conducted in the Vermont Pathways Analysis Report 2.0, and consider the potential costs of delaying action to achieve the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 578(a). The modeled impacts shall estimate high-, medium-, and low-price impacts. The reports shall recommend any legislative action needed to address enforcement of the Clean Heat Standard.

(2) Based on the information regarding projected costs and benefits, the Commission shall recommend cost-containment mechanisms to be included in statute.

(3) Upon receiving the recommendations regarding cost-containment mechanisms provided by the Commission, the General Assembly shall determine whether to enact legislation adopting the Commission's recommendations.

Sec. 4. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SERVICE POSITIONS; APPROPRIATION

(a) The following new positions are created in the Public Utility Commission for the purpose of carrying out this act:

- (1) one permanent exempt Staff Attorney 3;
- (2) one permanent exempt analyst; and
- (3) one limited-service exempt analyst.

(b) The sum of \$600,000.00 is appropriated to the Public Utility Commission from the General Fund in fiscal year 2023 for the positions established in subsection (a) of this section, for the consultant required by Sec. 3 of this act, and for additional operating costs required to implement the Clean Heat Standard, including marketing and public outreach for Sec. 3 of this act.

(c) The following new positions are created in the Department of Public Service for the purpose of carrying out this act:

(1) one permanent exempt Staff Attorney; and

(2) two permanent classified program analysts.

(d) The sum of \$600,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Public Service from the General Fund in fiscal year 2023 for the positions established in subsection (c) of this section, to retain consultants that may be required to support verification and evaluation required by 30 V.S.A. § 8124(a), and for associated operating costs related to the implementation of the Clean Heat Standard.

Sec. 5. SECTORAL PROPORTIONALITY REPORT

(a)(1) On or before November 15, 2023, the Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Service, in consultation with the Agencies of Agriculture, Food and Markets, of Commerce and Community Development, and of Transportation and the Vermont Climate Council, shall report to the House Committees on Energy and Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and to the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy regarding:

(A) the role of individual economic sectors in achieving the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 578(a);

(B) each economic sector's proportional contribution to greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont as inventoried pursuant to 10 V.S.A. 582; and

(C) the extent to which cost-effective, feasible, and co-beneficial reasonably available greenhouse gas emission reduction measures are available commensurate with each sector's proportional contribution and emissions reduction impact.

(2) The report shall consider the analyses performed in support of the December 1, 2021 Climate Action Plan and the 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan. The report shall consider additional analyses, as necessary.

(b) The report shall make recommendations to the General Assembly to amend 10 V.S.A. § 578 to include sector-specific greenhouse emissions reduction requirements and, as necessary, subsector-specific greenhouse emission reduction requirements for the purposes of informing and appropriately scaling the implementation of programs and policies that achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions. As used in this section, "sector" means those established in the annual Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast produced by the Agency of Natural Resources pursuant to

10 V.S.A. § 582. The recommendations shall be made in consideration of the factors established in 10 V.S.A. § 592(d).

(c) The Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Service, in consultation with the Vermont Climate Council, shall submit an updated report and any corresponding recommendations in accordance with this section on July 1 of a year immediately preceding a year in which an updated Climate Action Plan is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 592(a).

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Senator Nitka, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. chapter 94, by adding a new section 8129 to read as follows:

§ 8129. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Commission shall not file proposed rules with the Secretary of State or issue any orders implementing the Clean Heat Standard without specific authorization enacted by the General Assembly.

Second: In Sec. 3, Public Utility Commission implementation, subsection (a), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(2) On or before October 1, 2023, the Commission shall submit to the General Assembly an interim report on the development of the Clean Heat Standard.

Third: In Sec. 3, Public Utility Commission implementation, by striking out subsection (f) in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(f) Final rules.

(1) On or before January 15, 2024, the Commission shall submit to the General Assembly final proposed rules to implement the Clean Heat Standard. The Commission shall not file the final proposed rules with the Secretary of State until specific authorization is enacted by the General Assembly to do so.

(2) Notwithstanding 3 V.S.A. §§ 820, 831, 836–840, and 841(a), upon affirmative authorization enacted by the General Assembly authorizing the adoption of rules implementing the Clean Heat Standard, the Commission shall file, as the final proposed rule, the rules implementing the Clean Heat Standard approved by the General Assembly with the Secretary of State and Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 841. The filing shall include everything that is required under 3 V.S.A. §§ 838(a)(1)–(5), (8)–(13), (15), and (16) and 841(b)(1).

(3) The review, adoption, and effect of the rules implementing the Clean Heat Standard shall be governed by 3 V.S.A. §§ 841(c); 842, exclusive of subdivision (b)(4); 843; 845; and 846, exclusive of subdivision (a)(3).

(4) Once adopted and effective, any amendments to the rules implementing the Clean Heat Standard shall be made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposals of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and the recommendation of proposal of amendment of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, as amended?, Senators Bray, Campion, MacDonald, McCormack and Westman moved to amend the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, as amended, as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. chapter 94, section 8122, by adding a subsection (9) as follows:

(9) “Energy burden” means the annual spending on thermal energy as a percentage of household income.

Second: In Sec. 3, Public Utility Commission implementation, by striking out subdivision (c)(2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(2) In order to receive focused feedback from specific constituents, the Commission, with the assistance of the consultant, may also hold at least four meetings using deliberative polling or another method of receiving focused feedback from specific constituents. The facilitator shall assist the Commission in developing a format for soliciting feedback at the meetings. Each of these meetings shall focus on seeking input from a specific group, including heating fuel dealers; low-income, moderate-income, and fixed-

income customers and advocates; and customers who use large amounts of heating fuel.

Third: In Sec. 3, Public Utility Commission implementation, subdivision (i)(1), by striking out the first sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(1) On or before February 15, 2023 and January 15, 2024, the Commission shall submit a written report to and be available to provide oral testimony to the House Committees on Energy and Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy detailing the efforts undertaken to establish the Clean Heat Standard.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, as amended?, was decided in the affirmative on a roll call, Yeas 23, Nays 7.

Senator Bray having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Balint, Baruth, Bray, Champion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Ram Hinsdale, Sears, Sirotkin, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Benning, Brock, Collamore, Ingalls, Parent, Starr, Terenzini.

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Message from the House No. 57

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed a House bill of the following title:

H. 743. An act relating to amending the charter of the Town of Hardwick.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 100. An act relating to universal school breakfast and the creation of the Task Force on Universal School Lunch.

S. 127. An act relating to the procedures and review of community supervision furlough revocation or interruption appeals.

S. 195. An act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 52. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

The House has considered Senate proposals of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 510. An act relating to a Vermont Child Tax Credit and the Vermont Social Security income exclusion.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

And the Speaker appointed as members of such Committee on the part of the House:

Rep. Ancel of Calais
Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Rep. Beck of St. Johnsbury.

The House has considered Senate proposals of amendment to the following House bills:

H. 534. An act relating to sealing criminal history records.

H. 635. An act relating to secondary enforcement of minor traffic offenses.

And has severally concurred therein.

The Governor has informed the House that on April 27, 2022, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 461. An act relating to excluding the income of asylum seekers and refugees from household income.

H. 718. An act relating to approval of the dissolution of Colchester Fire District No. 1.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until ten o'clock in the forenoon on Friday, April 29, 2022.