

1 H.518

2 Senators Bray, Champion, Cummings, Hardy, MacDonald, McCormack,
3 Pearson and Westman move that the Senate propose to the House that the bill
4 be amended the bill be amended as follows:

5 First: In Sec. 2, municipal energy resilience; Department of Buildings and
6 General Services; assessments, by striking out subsection (f) in its entirety and
7 inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

8 (f) Definition. As used in this section, “covered municipality” means a
9 city, town, fire district or incorporated village, and all other governmental
10 incorporated units except for school districts.

11 Second: By striking out Sec. 3, Municipal Energy Resilience Grant
12 Program, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as
13 follows:

14 Sec. 3. MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM

15 (a) Program established.

16 (1) In fiscal year 2023, there is established the Municipal Energy
17 Resilience Grant Program to award grants to:

18 (A) make recommendations to municipalities on the use of more
19 efficient renewable or electric heating systems; and

20 (B) make necessary improvements to reduce emissions by reducing
21 fossil fuel usage and increasing efficiency in municipally owned buildings.

1 (2) For the awards granted pursuant to this subsection, the primary
2 design of replacement systems shall prioritize renewable or electric heating
3 systems as the preferred heating source. If, after review, a non-fossil fuel
4 heating system is not technically feasible as a primary heating source, the
5 recommendation may include upgrades for other heating systems, provided
6 they reduce fossil fuel consumption and meet the goals of this act.

7 (b) Definition. As used in this section, “covered municipality” means a
8 city, town, fire district or incorporated village, and all other governmental
9 incorporated units except for school districts.

10 (c) Administration; implementation.

11 (1) Grant awards. The Department of Buildings and General Services,
12 in coordination with Efficiency Vermont, through the State Energy
13 Management Program, shall administer the Program, which shall award grants
14 for the following:

15 (A) not more than \$500,000.00 to each covered municipality for
16 approved projects for weatherization, thermal efficiency, to supplement or
17 replace fossil fuel heating systems with more efficient renewable or electric
18 heating systems, and any other expenditures necessary for the project to be
19 eligible for funding under federal law and guidelines; and

1 (B) not more than \$4,000.00 to each covered municipality to
2 facilitate community meetings and communication about municipal energy
3 resilience.

4 (2) Grant Program design. The Department of Buildings and General
5 Services, in consultation with Efficiency Vermont; the Vermont League of
6 Cities and Towns; regional planning commissions; and experts in the field of
7 thermal enclosure, energy efficiency, and renewable building space systems,
8 shall design the Program. The Program shall include a streamlined and
9 minimal application process for a municipality to apply directly to the
10 Department of Buildings and General Services or with the assistance of a
11 regional planning commission. The Program design shall establish:

12 (A) an outreach and education plan by regional planning
13 commissions, including specific tactics to reach and support each covered
14 municipality;

15 (B) an equitable system for distributing grants statewide on the basis
16 of need according to a system of priorities, including the following ranked in
17 priority order:

18 (i) a municipality with the highest energy burden community
19 needs and lowest resources, as defined in Efficiency Vermont’s 2019 Energy
20 Burden Report;

1 (ii) a municipality that may not have administrative support to
2 apply for grants;

3 (iii) geographic location;

4 (iv) community size; and

5 (v) whether another division of the municipality has already
6 received a grant;

7 (C) guidelines for renewable and energy efficiency buildings systems
8 resilience, durability, health, and efficiency measures and costs that will be
9 eligible for grant funding; and

10 (D) eligibility criteria for covered municipalities, including written
11 commitment by the municipality to conduct community workshops and a self-
12 assessment.

13 (d) Coordination. The Department of Buildings and General Services shall
14 coordinate with any other State entities and agencies working with covered
15 municipalities to provide grants for the Program.

16 (e) Funding. The Program shall be funded by the American Rescue Plan
17 Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

18 (f) Assessment. A covered municipality is only eligible for a grant under
19 this section if an assessment of its buildings and facilities has been conducted
20 pursuant to Sec. 2 of this act.

1 Third: In Sec. 5, 29 V.S.A. § 168a, by striking out subdivision (c)(2) in its
2 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (c)(2) to read as
3 follows:

4 (2) Definition. As used in this section, “covered municipality” means a
5 city, town, fire district or incorporated village, and all other governmental
6 incorporated units except for school districts.