

1       Sec. 3. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION IMPLEMENTATION

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

5           (b) Facilitator. On or before October 1, 2022, the Commission shall hire a  
6       third-party consultant to design and conduct public engagement. The  
7       Commission may spend up to \$50,000.00 of the funds appropriated under this  
8       act on hiring the consultant.

9           (c) Public engagement process. The Commission shall use the forms of  
10       public engagement described in this subsection (c) to inform the design and  
11       implementation of the Clean Heat Standard.

12           (1) The Commission shall hold at least six hybrid public meetings that  
13       allow members of the public to participate either in person or remotely. The  
14       meetings shall be held in at least six different regions of the State. The  
15       meetings shall be recorded and publicly posted on the Commission’s website.

16           (2) The Commission, with the assistance of the consultant, shall also  
17       hold at least four meetings using deliberative polling. The facilitator shall  
18       assist the Commission in developing a format for using deliberative polling at  
19       the meetings. Each of these meetings shall seek the input from specific groups,  
20       including heating fuel dealers, low- and fixed-income customers and  
21       advocates, and customers who use large amounts of heating fuel.

1       (3) The Commission shall hold at least two workshops to solicit the input  
2       of potentially affected parties. The Commission shall provide notice of the  
3       workshops on its website and directly to the Department of Public Service,  
4       Vermont’s fuel wholesalers and retail fuel suppliers, renewable energy  
5       advocates, environmental and consumer advocacy organizations, organizations  
6       that serve low- and moderate-income Vermonters, organizations that serve  
7       older Vermonters, entities that provide weatherization services, energy  
8       transition providers, regional planning commissions, municipal energy  
9       commissions, community action agencies, environmental justice organizations,  
10       affordable housing advocates, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the  
11       regional development corporations, and to any other person that requests direct  
12       notice or to whom the Commission may consider direct notice appropriate.  
13       The Commission also shall provide an opportunity for submission of written  
14       comments, which the notice shall include.

15       (d) Draft order. The Commission shall publicly publish a draft order and  
16       provide notice of it to the stakeholders who participated in the workshops. The  
17       Commission shall provide a 30-day comment period on the draft and accept  
18       written comments from the public and stakeholders. The Commissions shall  
19       incorporate necessary changes in response to the public comments before  
20       adopting the final order.

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

4       (f) Order. On or before July 1, 2024, the Commission shall issue an order  
5       to take effect on January 1, 2025 that initially implements Sec. 2 (Clean Heat  
6       Standard) of this act.

7       (g) Consultant. On or before January 15, 2023, the Commission shall  
8       contract with a consultant to assist with implementation of 30 V.S.A. § 8125  
9       (Clean Heat Credits).

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

14       (i) Reports. On or before January 31, 2023 and January 31, 2024, the  
15       Commission shall submit a written report and hold hearings with the House  
16       Committees on Energy and Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and  
17       Wildlife and to the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources  
18       and Energy detailing the efforts undertaken to establish the Clean Heat  
19       Standard pursuant to this chapter.