

1 Senators Bray, Campion, MacDonald, McCormack, and Westman move
2 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
3 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

4 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 581 is amended to read:

5 § 581. BUILDING EFFICIENCY GOALS

6 It shall be goals of the State:

7 (1) To improve substantially the energy fitness of at least ~~20 percent of~~
8 ~~the State's housing stock by 2017 (more than 60,000 housing units), and 25~~
9 ~~percent of the State's housing stock by 2020 (approximately 80,000 housing~~
10 ~~units)~~ 120,000 housing units and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by
11 0.15 MMTCO₂e by 2031.

12 * * *

13 (4) To save Vermont families and businesses a total of \$1.5 billion on
14 their fuel bills over the lifetimes of the improvements and measures installed
15 between 2008 and 2017.

16 (5) To increase weatherization services to low-income Vermonters by
17 expanding the number of units weatherized or the scope of services provided,
18 or both, as revenue becomes available in the Home Weatherization Assistance
19 Fund.

20 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 2502 is amended to read:

21 § 2502. HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1 (a) The Director of the State Office of Economic Opportunity shall
2 administer the Home Weatherization Assistance Program under such rules,
3 regulations, funding, and funding requirements as may be imposed by federal
4 law.

5 (b) In addition, the Director shall supplement, or supplant, any federal
6 program with the State Home Weatherization Assistance Program.

7 * * *

8 (3) The Director, in collaboration with the weatherization service
9 providers and other stakeholders, shall develop the State program so that it will
10 include:

11 * * *

12 (D) Eliminating the lien requirements on weatherized rental
13 properties, so long as the landlord executes a rent stabilization agreement
14 which has a term of at least one year.

15 (E) Generally, allowing flexibility to accommodate special
16 circumstances in which greater energy savings can be realized or health and
17 safety problems may be alleviated.

18 (F) Increasing the number of low income homes weatherized each
19 year, or the scope of services provided, or both, to reflect increased revenues in
20 the Home Weatherization Assistance Fund.

1 (G) With respect to multi-family buildings housing recipients of home
2 heating fuel assistance under chapter 26 of this title, targeted outreach efforts
3 to ensure the highest weatherization participation rates by owners of such
4 buildings.

5 (H) Working to achieve the State’s energy savings and carbon
6 emissions reduction goals, including those in 10 V.S.A. §581.

7 * * *

8 Sec. 3. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION PROCEEDING

9 On or before December 17, 2021, the Public Utility Commission shall
10 report to the General Assembly on its recommendations concerning the
11 implementation of a volumetric thermal energy efficiency charge to provide
12 supplemental funding for thermal energy efficiency programs including those
13 implemented pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(e) and (g). The report shall include
14 the following:

15 (1) criteria for establishing the amount of the thermal energy efficiency
16 charge, including the size of annual thermal energy efficiency program budgets
17 and accounting for existing or new sources of funding for those programs over
18 time;

19 (2) whether the supplemental funding provided by the thermal energy
20 efficiency charge should be directed to an entity other than an entity appointed

1 by the Commission pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(B) to provide efficiency
2 programs and services to thermal energy customers;

3 (3) how to incentivize the installation of clean energy heating systems
4 and phase out the use of heating systems with high amounts of emissions; and

5 (4) any statutory amendments necessary to implement its
6 recommendations.

7 Sec. 4. DEVELOPMENT OF WEATHERIZATION WORKFORCE AND
8 COUNSELING SERVICES; REPORTS

9 (a) Weatherization Workforce Report.

10 (1) On or before June 15, 2021, the Chairs of the Senate Committee on
11 Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Energy and
12 Technology, or their designees, shall meet with the Department of Labor, the
13 Agency of Education, Efficiency Vermont, representatives of the Community
14 Action Agencies, NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, the Vermont Fuel
15 Dealers Association, and other parties currently delivering programming to
16 train workers to perform services related to thermal energy savings and
17 weatherization.

18 (2) Thereafter, Efficiency Vermont shall lead the Weatherization
19 Workforce Group that shall develop plans for the coordinated delivery of a
20 standardized statewide Building Sciences curriculum that includes
21 weatherization. The curriculum shall be designed to establish a career pathway

1 in energy efficiency construction and shall include a certification that is
2 broadly recognized, transparent, and portable.

3 (3) On or before October 1, 2021, Efficiency Vermont shall report to the
4 Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee
5 on Energy and Technology a plan for enhancing the coordinated delivery of
6 the standardized Building Sciences training program in order to support the
7 goals of 10 V.S.A. § 581.

8 (b) Energy Savings Counseling Report.

9 (1) On or before June 30, 2021, the Chairs of the Senate Committee on
10 Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Energy and
11 Technology, or their designees shall meet with the Office of Economic
12 Opportunity, the directors of the Community Action Agencies, Efficiency
13 Vermont, NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, and other parties currently
14 providing outreach and counseling services to Vermonters with low and
15 moderate income for the State's energy savings programs, including thermal
16 and transportation energy efficiency programs.

17 (2) Thereafter, the Office of Economic Opportunity shall lead the
18 Energy Savings Counseling Group that shall develop a plan for the coordinated
19 and effective delivery of counseling services designed to enroll and deliver
20 energy savings programs to their target service populations.

1 (3) On or before October 15, 2021, the Office of Economic Opportunity
2 shall report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the
3 House Committee on Energy and Technology a plan for coordinating and
4 enhancing their counseling services to low-income and moderate-income
5 Vermonters who could benefit from the State’s energy savings programs,
6 including thermal and transportation energy efficiency programs.

7 Sec. 5. 30 V.S.A. § 35 is added to read:

8 § 35. ENERGY SAVINGS FUND

9 (a) There is established the Energy Savings Fund, which shall be managed
10 in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. This Fund shall be
11 administered by the Department of Public Service to fund a variety of
12 programs that will increase energy savings. Monies in the Fund shall be used
13 solely for energy savings programs and for necessary costs incurred in
14 administering the Fund. The Department may create programs to be funded,
15 including weatherization and transportation programs.

16 (b) The Fund shall be made up of any funds appropriated to or deposited
17 into the Fund.

18 (c) The funds shall only be used to fund projects for which federal funds
19 are not currently available.

1 Sec. 6. APPROPRIATIONS

2 In fiscal year 2022, there is appropriated \$35,000,000.00 to the Energy
3 Savings Fund, established in 30 V.S.A. §35, as follows:

4 (1) \$4,000,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families, Office
5 of Economic Opportunity, Home Weatherization Assistance Program to be
6 used in fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023. Up to \$150,000.00 of these
7 funds may be used for vermiculite remediation and home repair as part of
8 home weatherization.

9 (2) \$4,000,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services
10 to provide low-cost financing to municipalities seeking to leverage energy
11 savings opportunities.

12 (3) \$9,000,000.00 to the Agency of Administration to grant to the
13 Vermont Housing Finance Agency for financial support of housing
14 weatherization statewide.

15 (4) \$5,000,000.00 to the Department of Public Service to grant to the
16 Efficiency Vermont for the purpose of weatherization incentives. These funds
17 shall be deposited in the Electric Efficiency Fund established under 30 V.S.A.
18 Sec. 209(d)(3) and be available for use by Efficiency Vermont through
19 December 31, 2023.

20 (5) \$2,000,000 to the Department of Public Service to grant to
21 Efficiency Vermont for the purpose of workforce development initiatives and

1 to support the expansion of Neighborworks of Western Vermont’s Heat Squad
2 program. These funds shall be deposited in the Electric Efficiency Fund
3 established under 30 V.S.A. Sec. 209(d)(3) and be available for use by
4 Efficiency Vermont through December 31, 2023.

5 (6) \$9,000,000.00 to be used on the Affordable Community-Scale
6 Renewable Energy Program, which shall support the creation of renewable
7 energy projects for low-income Vermonters.

8 (7) \$1,500,000.00 to the Community Action Agencies, to be used
9 through December 31, 2024, to support at least five Financial and Clean
10 Energy Coaches and one Coordinator in the Office of Economic Opportunity
11 to assist low-and-moderate income Vermonters in comprehensive financial
12 coaching, including budgeting, debt reduction, credit building, and asset
13 development, with an emphasis on reducing their reliance on carbon fuel-based
14 technologies.

15 (8) \$500,000.00 to the Community Action Agencies, to support the
16 MileageSmart program, established in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec.
17 34, as amended.

18 Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 621 is amended to read:

19 § 621. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

1 The Agency shall have all of the powers necessary and convenient to carry
2 out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this chapter, including those
3 general powers provided a business corporation by 11A V.S.A. § 3.02 and
4 those general powers provided a nonprofit corporation by 11B V.S.A. § 3.02
5 and including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the power to:

6 * * *

7 (22) issue bonds, notes, and other obligations secured by the property
8 transfer tax revenues transferred to the Agency pursuant to 32 V.S.A.
9 § 9610(d); and

10 (23) develop a program to finance and promote housing weatherization
11 using funds appropriated by the State; funds generated through issuing bonds,
12 notes, and other obligations of the Agency; and funds from other sources
13 obtained through grants or other arrangements. The program shall give
14 priority to programs benefiting persons and families at or below 120 percent of
15 the median income with high energy burdens and to programs to expand the
16 pool of qualified weatherization contractors in the State.

17 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

18 This act shall take effect on passage, except for Sec .6 (appropriations),
19 which shall take effect on July 1, 2021.