

## Memorandum

**To:** Senator Jane Kitchel, Senate Appropriations Chair  
**From:** Sean Brown, DCF Commissioner  
Sarah Phillips, OEO Director  
**Re:** S.109: Vermonters' Enhanced Energy Savings Act  
**Date:** March 19, 2021

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Thank you for the opportunity to address bill S.109, Vermonters' Enhance Energy Savings Act.

We would like to request revisions in two areas of S. 109.

- 1) The current version of S. 109, Section 2 proposes to amend 3 V.S.A. § 3902 Office of Economic Opportunity.

We propose that this Section be removed and replaced by a revision to 33 V.S.A. §2502(b)(3) by adding:

*(H) Work to achieve the State's energy savings and carbon emissions reduction goals, including those in 10 V.S.A. §581.*

3 V.S.A. § 3902 is the authorizing statute for the Office of Economic Opportunity and mirrors the federal statute for the community services funds administered by OEO. 33 V.S.A. §2502 is the Weatherization statute and is the appropriate location for this addition.

- 2) S.109 Section 5 amends 30 V.S.A. § 35 to establish an Energy Savings Fund administered by the Department of Public Services. The \$4M appropriation for the Home Weatherization Assistance Program is appropriated as part of this new Energy Savings Fund. This creates unnecessary administrative time and cost. The preferred approach by the Department of Public Service and the Department for Children and Families is to appropriate funds directly to the Office of Economic Opportunity for the Weatherization program.

Please contact Geoffrey Pippenger, Senior Advisor to the DCF Commissioner, if you have any questions about these suggestions: [geoffrey.pippenger@vermont.gov](mailto:geoffrey.pippenger@vermont.gov)

