

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred
3 Senate Bill No. 109 entitled “An act relating to the Vermonters’ Enhanced
4 Energy Savings Act” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

8 § 581. BUILDING EFFICIENCY GOALS

9 It shall be goals of the State:

10 (1) To improve substantially the energy fitness of at least ~~20 percent of~~
11 ~~the State’s housing stock by 2017 (more than 60,000 housing units), and 25~~
12 ~~percent of the State’s housing stock by 2020 (approximately 80,000 housing~~
13 ~~units) 120,000 housing units and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 0.32~~
14 MMTCO₂e by 2031.

15 * * *

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

19 (5) To increase weatherization services to low-income Vermonters by
20 expanding the number of units weatherized or the scope of services provided,

1 or both, as revenue becomes available in the Home Weatherization Assistance
2 Fund.

3 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 3902 is amended to read:

4 § 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

5 (a) The Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity is hereby
6 authorized to allocate available financial assistance for community services
7 agencies and programs in accordance with State and federal law and
8 regulation.

9 (b) The Director may provide financial assistance to community services
10 agencies for the planning, conduct, administration and evaluation of
11 community service programs to provide a range of services and activities
12 having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the
13 community or in areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute
14 problem. Components of those services and activities may involve, without
15 limitation of other activities and supporting facilities designed to assist low
16 income participants:

17 (1) to secure and retain meaningful employment;

18 (2) to obtain adequate education;

19 (3) to make better use of available income;

1 (4) to provide and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living
2 environment, while also working to achieve the State’s energy savings and
3 carbon emission reduction goals, including those in 10 VSA § 581;

4 (5) to obtain services for the prevention of narcotics addiction,
5 alcoholism, and for the rehabilitation of narcotic addicts and alcoholics;

6 (6) to obtain emergency assistance through loans and grants to meet
7 immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for
8 health services, nutritious food, housing, and unemployment-related assistance;

9 (7) to remove obstacles and solve personal and family problems which
10 block achievement of self-sufficiency;

11 (8) to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community;

12 (9) to make more frequent and effective use of other programs related to
13 the purposes of this chapter;

14 (10) to coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and
15 other social service programs to assure the effective delivery of such services
16 to low-income persons; and to encourage the use of entities in the private
17 sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the community.

18 * * *

19 Sec. 3. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION PROCEEDING

20 On or before December 17, 2021, the Public Utility Commission shall
21 report to the General Assembly on its recommendations concerning the

1 implementation of a volumetric thermal energy efficiency charge to provide
2 supplemental funding for thermal energy efficiency programs implemented
3 pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 209(e) and (g). The report shall include the
4 following:

5 (1) criteria for establishing the amount of the thermal energy efficiency
6 charge, including the size of annual thermal energy efficiency program budgets
7 and accounting for existing or new sources of funding for those programs over
8 time;

9 (2) whether the supplemental funding provided by the thermal energy
10 efficiency charge should be directed to an entity other than an entity appointed
11 by the Commission pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(B) to provide efficiency
12 programs and services to thermal energy customers;

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

15 (4) any statutory amendments necessary to implement its
16 recommendations.

17 Sec. 4. DEVELOPMENT OF WEATHERIZATION WORKFORCE AND
18 COUNSELING SERVICES; REPORTS

19 (a)(1) Weatherization Workforce Report. On or before June 15, 2021,
20 the chairs of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the
21 House Committee on Energy and Technology shall meet with the Department

1 of Labor, the Agency of Education, Efficiency Vermont, Vermont Housing
2 Finance Agency, the Community Action Agencies, NeighborWorks of
3 Western Vermont, and other parties currently delivering programming to train
4 workers to perform services related to thermal energy savings and
5 weatherization.

6 (2) Thereafter, the Department of Labor shall lead a Weatherization
7 Workforce Group that shall develop plans for the coordinated delivery of a
8 standardized statewide Building Sciences curriculum that includes
9 weatherization. The curriculum shall be designed to establish a career pathway
10 in energy efficiency construction and shall include a certification that is
11 broadly recognized, transparent, and portable.

12 (3) On or before October 1, 2021, the Department of Labor shall report
13 to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the House
14 Committee on Energy and Technology a plan for enhancing the coordinated
15 delivery of the standardized Building Sciences training program in order to
16 support the goals of 10 V.S.A. § 581.

17 (b)(1) **Energy Savings Counseling Report**. On or before June 30, 2021, the
18 chairs of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the
19 House Committee on Energy and Technology shall meet with the Office of
20 Economic Opportunity, the directors of the Community Action Agencies,
21 Efficiency Vermont, NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, and other parties

1 currently providing outreach and counseling services to Vermonters with low
2 and moderate income for the State’s energy savings programs, including
3 thermal and transportation energy efficiency programs.

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

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

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

15 § 35. ENERGY SAVINGS FUND

16 (a) There is established the Energy Savings Fund which shall be managed
17 in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. This Fund shall be
18 administered by the Department of Public Service to fund a variety of
19 programs that will increase energy savings. Monies in the Fund shall be used
20 solely for energy savings programs, including weatherization and

1 transportation programs and for necessary costs incurred in administering the
2 Fund.

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

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

7 Sec. 6. APPROPRIATIONS

8 In fiscal year 2022, there is appropriated from the General Fund
9 \$35,000,000.00 to the Energy Savings Fund, established in 30 V.S.A. § 35, as
10 follows:

11 (1) \$4,000,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families, Office
12 of Economic Opportunity, Home Weatherization Assistance Program to be
13 used in FY 2022 and FY 2023. Up to \$150,000.00 of these funds may be used
14 for vermiculite remediation and home repair as part of home weatherization.

15 (2) \$4,000,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services
16 to provide low-cost financing to municipalities seeking to leverage energy
17 savings opportunities.

18 (C) \$9,000,000.00 to the Agency of Administration to grant to the
19 Vermont Housing Finance Agency for financial support of housing
20 weatherization statewide.

1 (D) \$5,000,000.00 the Department of Public Service to grant to the
2 Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) for weatherization incentives
3 that supplement programs delivered by Efficiency Vermont

4 (E) \$2,000,000.00 the Department of Public Service to grant to VEIC for
5 workforce development initiatives and to support the expansion of
6 NeighborWorks of Western Vermont’s Heat Squad program statewide.

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

10 (G) \$2,000,000.00 to support projects offering innovative methods of
11 financing energy savings measures, including to-the-meter programs.

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

13 § 621. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

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

19 ***

1 (22) issue bonds, notes, and other obligations secured by the property
2 transfer tax revenues transferred to the Agency pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §
3 9610(d);

4 (23) develop a program to finance and promote housing weatherization
5 using funds appropriated by the State, funds generated through issuing bonds,
6 notes, and other obligations of the Agency, and funds from other sources
7 obtained through grants or other arrangements. The program shall give
8 priority to programs benefiting persons and families at or below 120% of
9 median income with high energy burdens and to programs to expand the pool
10 of qualified weatherization contractors in the State.

11
12 (Committee vote: _____)

13 _____
14 Senator _____
15 FOR THE COMMITTEE\
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