

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred
3 Senate Bill No. 284 entitled “An act relating to weatherization” respectfully
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be
5 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu
6 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~~
14 0.15 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. 33 V.S.A. § 2502 is amended to read:

4 § 2502. HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

5 * * *

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

8 (1) The State program shall provide an enhanced weatherization
9 assistance amount exceeding the federal per unit limit allowing amounts up to
10 an average of \$8,500.00 per unit allocated on a cost-effective basis. The
11 allowable average per unit may be adjusted to account for the lower cost per
12 unit of multifamily buildings. In units where costs exceed the allowable
13 average by more than 25 percent, prior approval of the Director of the State
14 Economic Opportunity Office shall be required before work commences. This
15 amount shall be adjusted annually ~~by increasing the last year's amount by the~~
16 ~~percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for the previous year to~~
17 account for increased material and labor costs due to inflation.

18 * * *

19 Sec. 3. APPROPRIATIONS; WEATHERIZATION INVESTMENTS

20 In fiscal year 2023, \$21,433,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund
21 as follows:

1 (1) \$20,000,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families, Office
2 of Economic Opportunity, Home Weatherization Assistance Program. Up to
3 \$150,000 of these funds may be used for vermiculite remediation and home
4 repair as part of home weatherization.

5 (2) \$500,000.00 to the Department of Labor to provide training
6 subsidies. These subsidies shall be provided to contractors and businesses to:
7 fund internships for lightly skilled workers; subsidize wages for new hires and
8 interns; provide scholarships to further training; and cover additional costs for
9 students during internships.

10 (3) \$333,000.00 to the Vermont Technical College for training and
11 career path programs. These programs shall include programs to provide
12 training for contractors, electricians, plumbers, and to train building science
13 mentors; programs for career pathway training for students in grades 5-12; and
14 programs to provide teacher training in green careers.

15 (4) \$600,000.00 to Vermont Technical College for mobile workforce
16 training labs. These labs shall be used to reach geographically hard to reach
17 locations and demographics.

18 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.

20
21

1 (Committee vote: _____)

2

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE