

1 S.284

2 Introduced by Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

3 Date:

4 Subject: Air pollution; climate change; building efficiency and weatherization;

5 Home Weatherization Assistance Fund; energy efficiency utilities

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to accelerate the  
7 weatherization of homes in Vermont. It would propose changes to provide  
8 funding for weatherization projects; increase the workforce for energy  
9 coaching and energy counseling; create a system to certify weatherization  
10 contractors; create a registry of certified weatherization contractors; create a  
11 range of affordable financing options for homeowners and renters, including  
12 on-bill financing; and ensure that the weatherization program does not burden  
13 the sale or transfer of properties weatherized through the program.

14 An act relating to weatherization

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

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

17 § 581. BUILDING EFFICIENCY GOALS

18 It shall be goals of the State:

19 (1) To improve substantially the energy fitness of at least ~~20 percent of~~  
20 ~~the State's housing stock by 2017 (more than 60,000 housing units), and 25~~

1 ~~percent of the State's housing stock by 2020 (approximately 80,000 housing~~  
2 ~~units)~~ 120,000 housing units and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by  
3 0.15 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2031.

4 \* \* \*

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

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

12 Sec. 2. WEATHERIZATION WORKING GROUP

13 (a) There is established the Weatherization Working Group to facilitate and  
14 accelerate the ongoing implementation of weatherization programming in the  
15 State.

16 (b) The Working Group shall make recommendations on any aspect of this  
17 work they deem useful to operate a weatherization program capable of meeting  
18 the goals established by the Climate Action Plan and the goals of Sec. 1 of this  
19 act. The recommendations shall include:

20 (1) near-term and long-term funding sources;

1           (2) the creation of a:

2                   (A) workforce to provide energy and financial counseling and  
3 coaching services;

4                   (B) workforce to provide weatherization and energy services;

5                   (C) mechanism to certify weatherization contractors;

6                   (D) registry of certified weatherization contractors; and

7                   (E) range of affordable financing options for homeowners and renters  
8 to participate in the program, including on-bill financing; and

9           (3) the development of means to ensure that the weatherization program  
10 does not burden the sale or transfer of properties weatherized through the  
11 program.

12           (c) Membership. The Working Group shall consist of two current members  
13 of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on Committees, and two current  
14 members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
15 House.

16           (d) Meetings. The Weatherization Working Group shall hold its first  
17 meeting on or before June 15, 2022. It shall elect a chair from its membership.  
18 A majority of members shall constitute a quorum. The Working Group shall  
19 cease to exist on February 1, 2023.

20           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

21           This act shall take effect on passage.