

1 Introduced by Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

2 Date:

3 Subject: Air pollution; climate change; building efficiency and weatherization;
4 Home Weatherization Assistance Fund; energy efficiency utilities

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

13 An act relating to weatherization

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

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

16 § 581. BUILDING EFFICIENCY GOALS

17 It shall be goals of the State:

18 (1) To improve substantially the energy fitness of at least ~~20 percent of~~
19 ~~the State's housing stock by 2017 (more than 60,000 housing units), and 25~~
20 ~~percent of the State's housing stock by 2020 (approximately 80,000 housing~~

1 ~~units)~~ 120,000 housing units and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by
2 0.15 MMTCO₂e by 2031.

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

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

11 Sec. 2. WEATHERIZATION WORKING GROUP

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

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

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

20 (2) the creation of a:

1 (A) workforce to provide energy and financial counseling and
2 coaching services;
3 (B) workforce to provide weatherization and energy services;
4 (C) mechanism to certify weatherization contractors;
5 (D) registry of certified weatherization contractors; and
6 (E) range of affordable financing options for homeowners and renters
7 to participate in the program, including on-bill financing; and

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

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

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

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.