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S.59

Introduced by Senators Perchlik, Baruth, Bray, Campion, Chittenden,  
Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Lyons,  
MacDonald, McCormack, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, White and  
Wrenner

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: State buildings; energy; renewable heating system

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
Department of Buildings and General Services, the Department of Forests,  
Parks, and Recreation, and the Agency of Transportation to, subject to an  
exemption, install in any building owned or controlled by the State: (1) a  
renewable space or water heating system when any space heating system is  
replaced or when a new space or water heating system is installed, and (2) a  
non-fossil fuel cooking appliance when any fossil fuel cooking appliance is  
replaced.

An act relating to the replacement of heating systems owned or controlled  
by the State

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

2 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

3 The General Assembly finds that:

4 (1) the State has options to use non-fossil fuel space heating for  
5 buildings that are owned or controlled by the State that provide an equivalent  
6 or better heating and cooling source;

7 (2) in the State of Vermont, there are non-fossil fuel space heating  
8 options that use local fuel, including wood fuels such as cord wood, wood  
9 chips, and wood pellets;

10 (3) with 80 percent of funds spent on wood heating coming from the  
11 local Vermont economy as compared to only 20 percent when heating oil is  
12 used, the use of advanced wood heating systems supports the State's economy  
13 at large and specifically the forest products industry;

14 (4) support for the State's forest products industry is particularly needed  
15 due to the slump in the demand for low-grade wood in the Northeast;

16 (5) the installation of wood heating systems will help to build an  
17 advanced wood heating industry sector in Vermont and the Northeast;

18 (6) the installation of non-fossil fuel space heating systems will likely  
19 save the State money on heating costs as compared to fossil fuels; and

1           (7) the installation of non-fossil fuel space heating systems will help to  
2           meet the State’s renewable energy goals and greenhouse gas reduction  
3           requirements, as required by 10 V.S.A. § 578 and 30 V.S.A. § 202b.

4           Sec. 2. FISCAL YEAR 2024; DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND  
5                       GENERAL SERVICES; HEATING SYSTEMS; COOKING  
6                       APPLIANCES; NON-FOSSIL FUELS; REPLACEMENT  
7                       SCHEDULE; BACKUP HEATING

8           (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

9                       (1) “Fossil fuel cooking appliance” means any major cooking appliance  
10                      that is used as a major cooking appliance to cook or heat different types of  
11                      food that is not a non-fossil fuel cooking appliance.

12                      (2) “Fossil fuel heating system” means any space heating system or hot  
13                      water heating system that is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

14                      (3) “Non-fossil fuel cooking appliance” means any cooking appliance  
15                      that is used as a major cooking appliance to cook or heat different types of  
16                      food that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels.

17                      (4) “Non-fossil fuel heating system” means a space heating system or a  
18                      hot water heating system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that  
19                      exclusively utilizes renewable liquid fuel.

20                      (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this  
21                      section, beginning in fiscal year 2024, the Department of Buildings and

1 General Services shall only:

2 (1) install non-fossil fuel heating systems as the primary heating source  
3 for space or water in buildings owned or controlled by the Department; and

4 (2) install non-fossil fuel cooking appliances in buildings owned or  
5 controlled by the Department.

6 (c) Exemption. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may  
7 provide a written exemption to the replacements required in subsection (b) of  
8 this section if the Commissioner determines that it is financially impracticable  
9 to install a non-fossil fuel heating system as a primary heating source or install  
10 a non-fossil fuel cooking appliance.

11 (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a  
12 non-fossil fuel heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if a non-  
13 fossil fuel backup heating system is not available, the Commissioner may  
14 continue to use fossil fuel heating systems as backup heating or as  
15 supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings owned or  
16 controlled by the Commissioner.

17 (e) Report. On or before January 15 of each year, the Commissioner shall  
18 submit a report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and  
19 the Senate Committee on Institutions with the basis of each exemption  
20 provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any fossil fuel heating  
21 systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A.

1 § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made  
2 under this subsection.

3 Sec. 3. FISCAL YEAR 2024; AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION;

4 HEATING SYSTEMS; COOKING APPLIANCES; NON-FOSSIL

5 FUELS; REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE; BACKUP HEATING

6 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

7 (1) “Fossil fuel cooking appliance” means any cooking appliance that is  
8 used as a major cooking appliance to cook or heat different types of food that  
9 is not a non-fossil fuel cooking appliance.

10 (2) “Fossil fuel heating system” means any space heating system or hot  
11 water heating system that is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

12 (3) “Non-fossil fuel cooking appliance” means any cooking appliance  
13 that is used as a major cooking appliance to cook or heat different types of  
14 food that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels.

15 (4) “Non-fossil fuel heating system” means a space heating system or a  
16 hot water heating system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that  
17 exclusively utilizes renewable liquid fuel.

18 (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this  
19 section, beginning in fiscal year 2024, the Agency of Transportation shall only:

20 (1) install non-fossil fuel heating systems as the primary heating source  
21 for space or water in buildings owned or controlled by the Agency; and

1           (2) install non-fossil fuel cooking appliances in buildings owned or  
2           controlled by the Agency.

3           (c) Exemption. The Secretary of Transportation may provide a written  
4           exemption to the replacements required in subsection (b) of this section if the  
5           Secretary determines that it is financially impracticable to install a non-fossil  
6           fuel heating system as a primary heating source or install a non-fossil fuel  
7           cooking appliance.

8           (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a  
9           non-fossil fuel space heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if  
10           a non-fossil fuel backup space heating system is not available, the Agency may  
11           continue to use fossil fuel space heating systems as backup heating or as  
12           supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings owned or  
13           controlled by the Agency.

14           (e) Report. On or before January 15 of each year, the Secretary shall  
15           submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation with  
16           the basis of each exemption provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section  
17           and any fossil fuel heating systems installed in the previous calendar year. The  
18           provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply  
19           to the report to be made under this subsection.

1       Sec. 4. FISCAL YEAR 2024; DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND  
2               RECREATION; HEATING SYSTEMS; COOKING APPLIANCES;  
3               NON-FOSSIL FUELS; REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE; BACKUP  
4               HEATING

5               (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

6               (1) “Fossil fuel cooking appliance” means any cooking appliance that is  
7               used as a major cooking appliance to cook or heat different types of food that  
8               is not a non-fossil fuel cooking appliance.

9               (2) “Fossil fuel heating system” means any space heating system or hot  
10              water heating system that is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

11              (3) “Non-fossil fuel cooking appliance” means any cooking appliance  
12              that is used as a major cooking appliance to cook or heat different types of  
13              food that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels.

14              (4) “Non-fossil fuel heating system” means a space heating system or a  
15              hot water heating system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that  
16              exclusively utilizes renewable liquid fuel.

17              (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this  
18              section, beginning in fiscal year 2024, the Department of Forests, Parks and  
19              Recreation shall only:

20              (1) install non-fossil fuel heating systems as the primary heating source  
21              for space or water in buildings owned or controlled by the Department; and

1           (2) install non-fossil fuel cooking appliances in buildings owned or  
2           controlled by the Department.

3           (c) Exemption. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may  
4           provide a written exemption to the replacements required in subsection (b) of  
5           this section if the Commissioner determines that it is financially impracticable  
6           to install a non-fossil fuel heating system as a primary heating source or install  
7           a non-fossil fuel cooking appliance.

8           (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a  
9           non-fossil fuel heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if a non-  
10           fossil fuel backup heating system is not available, the Department may  
11           continue to use fossil fuel heating systems as backup heating or as  
12           supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings owned or  
13           controlled by the Department.

14           (e) Report. On or before January 15 of each year, the Commissioner shall  
15           submit a report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and  
16           the Senate Committee on Corrections and Institutions with the basis of each  
17           exemption provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any fossil  
18           fuel heating systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The provisions of  
19           2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to  
20           be made under this subsection.



- 1      Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 2      This act shall take effect on passage.