

1

S.112

2 An act relating to miscellaneous subjects related to the Public Utility  
3 Commission

4 The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by adding a Sec. 10a to  
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 10a. RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD WORKING GROUP

7 (a) Established. The Legislative Working Group on Renewable Energy  
8 Standard Reform is created to draft legislation to be considered by the General  
9 Assembly during the 2024 Legislative session.

10 (b) Membership.

11 (1) The Legislative Working Group on Renewable Energy Standard  
12 Reform will be convened by two members from the House appointed by the  
13 Speaker of the House and two members of the Senate appointed by the  
14 Committee on Committees. One member from the House and one member  
15 from the Senate shall be the co-chairs of the Work Group.

16 (2) The Working Group shall also be made up of one representative  
17 from each of the following: Green Mountain Power, Burlington Electric  
18 Department, Vermont Public Power Supply Authority, Washington Electric  
19 Coop, Vermont Electric Coop, Vermont Public Interest Research Group,  
20 Renewable Energy Vermont, Conservation Law Foundation, Vermont Electric  
21 Power Company, Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Vermont Natural

1 Resources Council, GlobalFoundries, Associated Industries of Vermont, and  
2 the Sierra Club. Stowe Electric and Hyde Park Electric may each name a  
3 representative to the Working Group if they choose.

4 (c) Duties. In addition to submitting draft legislation, the Working Group  
5 shall report on the following:

6 (1) whether any changes to Vermont’s existing renewable energy  
7 requirements, or other energy policies, are needed to increase grid stability,  
8 resiliency, modernization, and reliability;

9 (2) identifying any barriers to moving to a 100 percent renewable  
10 standard for all electrical utilities by 2030;

11 (3) recommending cost effective procurement policies to increase new  
12 renewable energy, storage, and flexible load management to offset increasing  
13 in-State load, improve grid stability and resiliency, and that consider integrated  
14 resource planning electric load growth projections;

15 (4) whether increasing the requirement for out-of-state renewable  
16 procurements within or delivered into the ISO-New England territory can  
17 ensure affordable electric rates;

18 (5) evaluating the impact legislative recommendations may have on  
19 Tier III implementation;

20 (6) evaluating the impact recommended legislative changes to  
21 procurement programs will have on Vermont jobs and the Vermont economy;

1           (7) how current programs impact environmental justice focus  
2 populations, households with low income, and households with moderate  
3 income and how a revised Renewable Energy Standard can ensure that benefits  
4 and burdens are distributed equitably; and

5           (8) how any changes to the Renewable Energy Standard will address the  
6 inequity of distribution of benefits of renewables between different residential  
7 properties.

8           (d) Assistance.

9           (1) The Working Group shall have legal assistance from the Office of  
10 Legislative Council and administrative assistance from the Office of  
11 Legislative Operations.

12           (2) On or before July 15, 2023, the Joint Fiscal Office may retain the  
13 services of one or more independent third parties to provide facilitation and  
14 mediation services to the Working Group, and data analysis recommendations  
15 at the direction of the legislative members.

16           (3) The Department of Public Service shall be invited to advise the  
17 Working Group on the results of its ongoing public process to review the  
18 Renewable Energy Standard and any other items as needed.

19           (e) Compensation and reimbursement.

20           (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
21 Assembly, a legislative member of the Working Group serving in the

1 legislator's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation  
2 and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than  
3 eight meetings.

4 (2) Other members of the Working Group who are not otherwise  
5 compensated by their employer shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
6 reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more  
7 than eight meetings.

8 (3) The payments under this subsection (e) shall be made from monies  
9 appropriated by the General Assembly.

10 (f) Report. The Working Group shall submit draft legislation and a report  
11 on its deliberations and findings to the House Committee on Environment and  
12 Energy and Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy by December  
13 1, 2023. Working Group members may submit minority opinions that shall be  
14 included with the report containing the draft legislation.

15 (g) Appropriation. In fiscal year 2024, it is the intent of the General  
16 Assembly to appropriate funds if available from the General Fund to the Joint  
17 Fiscal Office to hire the consultants pursuant to this section.