

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Environment and Energy to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 112 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous subjects related to the
4 Public Utility Commission” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended
6 by adding a new Sec. 10a to read as follows:

7 Sec. 10a. RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD WORKING GROUP

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

11 (b) Membership.

12 (1) The Legislative Working Group on Renewable Energy Standard
13 Reform will be convened by two members from the House appointed by the
14 Speaker of the House and two members of the Senate appointed by the
15 Committee on Committees.

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

1 Sierra Club. Stowe Electric and Hyde Park Electric may name a representative
2 to the Working Group if they choose.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (d) Assistance.

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

4 (2) On or before July 15, 2023, the Joint Fiscal Office may issue a
5 Request For Proposal to one or more independent third parties to provide
6 facilitation and mediation services to the Working Group, and economic data
7 and analysis recommendations at the direction of the legislative members.

8 (3) The Department of Public Service shall be invited to advise the
9 Working Group about the results of its ongoing public process to review the
10 Renewable Energy Standard.

11 (e) Compensation and reimbursement.

12 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
13 Assembly, a legislative member of the Working Group serving in the
14 legislator’s capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation
15 and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than six
16 meetings.

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

1 (3) The payments under this subsection (g) shall be made from monies
2 appropriated by the General Assembly.

3 (f) Report. The Working Group shall submit draft legislation and a report
4 on its deliberations and findings to the House Committee on Environment and
5 Energy and Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy by December
6 1, 2023. Working Group members may submit minority opinions that shall be
7 included with the report containing the draft legislation.

8

9

10 (Committee vote: _____)

11

12

Representative _____

13

FOR THE COMMITTEE