

1 S.305

2 Representative Stebbins of Burlington moves that the House propose to the
3 Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

4 First: In Sec. 14, 30 V.S.A. § 209, in subdivision (d)(3)(C), by striking out
5 the first sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new sentence to
6 read as follows:

7 The Commission, by rule or order, shall establish a process by which a
8 customer who pays an average annual energy efficiency charge under this
9 subdivision (3) of at least \$5,000.00 may apply to the Commission to self-
10 administer energy efficiency through ~~the use of an energy savings account or~~
11 customer credit program which that shall contain a percentage up to 75 percent
12 and 90 percent, respectively of the customer’s energy efficiency charge
13 payments as determined by the Commission.

14 Second: By striking out Sec. 15 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a
15 new Sec. 15 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 15. 30 V.S.A. § 201 is amended to read:

17 § 201. DEFINITIONS

18 As used in this chapter:

19 * * *

20 (7) “Thermal energy exchange” means piped noncombustible fluids
21 used for transferring heat into and out of buildings for the purpose of avoiding,

1 eliminating, reducing any existing or new on-site greenhouse gas emissions of
2 all types of heating and cooling processes, including comfort heating and
3 cooling, domestic hot water, and refrigeration.

4 (8) “Thermal energy exchange network” means all real estate, fixtures,
5 and personal property operated, owned, used, or to be used for or in connection
6 with or to facilitate distribution infrastructure project that supplies thermal
7 energy to more than one household, dwelling unit, or network of buildings that
8 are not commonly owned. This definition does not include a mutual benefit
9 enterprise, cooperative or common interest community that is owned by the
10 persons it serves and that provides thermal energy exchange services only to its
11 members, a landlord providing thermal energy exchange services only to its
12 tenants where the service is included in the lease agreement, or any entity that
13 provides thermal energy exchange services only to itself.

14 Third: By striking out Sec. 16 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a
15 new Sec. 16 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 16. 30 V.S.A. § 231 is amended to read:

17 § 231. CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD; ABANDONMENT OF
18 SERVICE; HEARING

19 * * *

20 (d) Notwithstanding any other State law to the contrary, a municipality
21 shall have the authority to construct, operate, set rates for, finance, and use

1 eminent domain for a thermal energy exchange network utility without a
2 certificate of public good or approval by the Commission. Nothing in this
3 section shall alter the requirements of 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 including for
4 district energy projects such as those described in subdivision 209 (e)(1) of this
5 title.

6 Fourth: By striking out Sec. 17 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a
7 new Sec. 17 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 17. THERMAL ENERGY EXCHANGE NETWORK DEVELOPMENT
9 REPORT

10 (a) On or before December 1, 2025, the Public Utility Commission shall
11 issue a report to the House Committee on Environment and Energy and the
12 Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on how to support the
13 development of thermal energy exchange networks and the permitting of
14 thermal energy exchange network providers. The report shall address all
15 aspects of the permitting, construction, operation, and rates of thermal energy
16 exchange networks and recommend necessary statutory changes.

17 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit persons or
18 companies already regulated by the Commission under 30 V.S.A. chapter 5
19 from pursuing thermal energy change network projects prior to completion of
20 this study.