

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred
3 Senate Bill No. 305 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous changes related
4 to the Public Utility Commission” respectfully reports that it has considered
5 the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 7,
6 effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 7. 30 V.S.A. § 8010 is amended to read:

8 § 8010. SELF-GENERATION AND NET METERING

9 * * *

10 (c) In accordance with this section, the Commission shall adopt and
11 implement rules that govern the installation and operation of net metering
12 systems.

13 (1) The rules shall establish and maintain a net metering program that:

14 * * *

15 (G) accounts for changes over time in the cost of technology; ~~and~~

16 (H) allows a customer to retain ownership of the environmental
17 attributes of energy generated by the customer’s net metering system and of
18 any associated tradeable renewable energy credits or to transfer those attributes
19 and credits to the interconnecting retail provider, and:

1 (i) if the customer retains the attributes, reduces the value of the
2 credit provided under this section for electricity generated by the customer’s
3 net metering system by an appropriate amount; and

4 (ii) if the customer transfers the attributes to the interconnecting
5 provider, requires the provider to retain them for application toward
6 compliance with sections 8004 and 8005 of this title; and

7 (I) allows a customer to change the customer’s decision to retain
8 or transfer the attributes once.

9 * * *

10 Sec. 8. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 151, Sec. 1, as amended by 2023 Acts and
11 Resolves No. 44, Sec. 1, is further amended to read:

12 Sec. 1. ALLOWANCE OF THE USE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
13 CHARGE FUNDS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
14 REDUCTION PROGRAMS

15 (a) Intent. The General Assembly intends for the entities appointed to
16 provide electric energy efficiency and conservation programs and measures
17 pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(A) to use the authority provided in this
18 section to advance programs, measures, and services that provide reasonable
19 opportunities to support greenhouse gas emissions reduction in ways that are
20 complementary to other existing programs. The goal of this section is to bring
21 additional funding to the effort to help utility customers reduce greenhouse gas

1 emissions by utilizing a portion of the electric resource acquisition budget.
2 Entities providing electric efficiency and conservation programs and measures
3 shall strive to provide the maximum amount of funding and support under this
4 section as permitted, provided there are programs, measures, or services they
5 can provide to customers that are consistent with the criteria of this section.

6 (b) The electric resource acquisition budget for an entity appointed to
7 provide electric energy efficiency and conservation programs and measures
8 pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(A) for the calendar years 2021–2026 shall
9 be determined pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(3)(B). This section shall apply
10 only if the entity’s total electric resource acquisition budget for 2024–2026
11 does not exceed the entity’s total electric resource acquisition budget for 2021–
12 2023, adjusted for cumulative inflation between January 1, 2021, and July 1,
13 2023, using the national consumer price index. An entity may include
14 proposals for activities allowed under this pilot in its 2027–2029 demand
15 resource plan filing, but these activities shall only be implemented if this
16 section is extended to cover that ~~timeframe~~ time frame.

17 ~~(b)~~(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law or order of the Public Utility
18 Commission (PUC) to the contrary, the PUC shall authorize an entity pursuant
19 to subsection ~~(a)~~(b) of this section to spend its electric resource acquisition
20 budget, in an amount to be determined by the PUC entity pursuant to
21 subsection (b) of this section but not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 per year, on

1 programs, measures, and services that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the
2 thermal energy or transportation sectors. ~~Programs~~ The annual acquisition
3 budget proposed by an entity pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be
4 approved by the PUC provided the entity proposes programs, measures, or
5 services under this section that either have been approved in prior years under
6 this act or 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 44, or for new programs, measures, and
7 services authorized pursuant to subsection ~~(a)~~(b) of this section, provided they
8 shall:

9 (1) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the thermal energy or
10 transportation sectors, or both.

11 (2) Have a nexus with electricity usage.

12 (3) Be additive and complementary to and shall not replace or be in
13 competition with electric utility energy transformation projects pursuant to
14 30 V.S.A. § 8005(a)(3) and existing thermal efficiency programs operated by
15 an entity appointed under 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(A) such that they result in the
16 largest possible greenhouse gas emissions reductions in a cost-effective
17 manner.

18 (4) Be proposed after the entity consults with any relevant State agency
19 or department and shall not be duplicative or in competition with programs
20 delivered by that agency or department.

1 (5) Be delivered on a statewide basis. However, this shall not preclude
2 the delivery of services specific to a retail electricity provider. Should such
3 services be offered, all distribution utilities and Vermont Public Power Supply
4 Authority shall be provided the opportunity to participate, and those services
5 shall be designed and coordinated in partnership with each of them. For
6 programs and services that are not offered on a statewide basis, the proportion
7 of utility-specific program funds used for services to any distribution utility
8 shall be ~~no~~ not less than the proportionate share of the energy efficiency
9 charge, which in the case of Vermont Public Power Supply Authority, is the
10 amount collected across their combined member utility territories during the
11 period this section remains in effect.

12 ~~(e)~~(d) An entity that is approved to provide a program, measure, or service
13 pursuant to this section shall provide the program, measure, or service in
14 cooperation with a retail electricity provider.

15 (1) The entity shall not claim any savings and reductions in fossil fuel
16 consumption and in greenhouse gas emissions by the customers of the retail
17 electricity provider resulting from the program, measure, or service if the
18 provider elects to offer the program, measure, or service pursuant to 30 V.S.A.
19 § 8005(a)(3) unless the entity and provider agree upon how savings and
20 reductions should be accounted for, apportioned, and claimed.

1 (2) The PUC shall develop standards and methods to appropriately
2 measure the effectiveness of the programs, measures, and services in relation
3 to the entity’s Demand Resources Plan proceeding.

4 ~~(e)~~(e) Any funds spent on programs, measures, and services pursuant to
5 this section shall not be counted towards the calculation of funds used by a
6 retail electricity provider for energy transformation projects pursuant to 30
7 V.S.A. § 8005(a)(3) and the calculation of project costs pursuant to 30 V.S.A.
8 § 8005(a)(3)(C)(iv).

9 ~~(e)~~(f) On or before April 30, 2021 and every April 30 for six years
10 thereafter, the PUC shall submit a written report to the House Committee on
11 Environment and Energy and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and
12 Energy and on Finance concerning any programs, measures, and services
13 approved pursuant to this section.

14 ~~(f)~~(g) Thermal energy and process fuel efficiency funding.
15 Notwithstanding 30 V.S.A. § 209(e), a retail electricity provider that is also an
16 entity appointed under 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(2)(A), may during the years of
17 2024–2026, use monies subject to 30 V.S.A. § 209(e) to deliver thermal and
18 transportation measures or programs that reduce fossil fuel use regardless of
19 the preexisting fuel source of the customer, including measures or programs
20 permissible under this pilot program, with special emphasis on measures or
21 programs that take a new or innovative approach to reducing fossil fuel use,

1 including modifying or supplementing existing vehicle incentive programs and
2 electric vehicle supply equipment grant programs to incentivize high-
3 consumption fuel users, especially individuals using more than 1000 gallons of
4 gasoline or diesel annually and those with low and moderate income, to
5 transition to the use of battery electric vehicles.

6 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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12 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE