

1 H.277

2 Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Mrowicki of Putney, and
3 Olson of Starksboro

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Public service; health; weatherization; funding

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the
8 tax on the purchase of fossil fuels to fund the Home Weatherization Assistance
9 Program. It would expand the eligibility criteria to apply for Home
10 Weatherization Assistance Program grants. It also proposes to accelerate and
11 increase administrative and financial support of weatherization trade workforce
12 recruitment and training programs funded through the Home Weatherization
13 Assistance Program.

14 An act relating to weatherization funding and weatherization workforce
15 recruitment

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

17 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

18 The General Assembly finds that, in addition to the weatherization efforts
19 provided under the current Home Weatherization Assistance Program
20 established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 25, an increased pace of weatherization would

1 benefit the health of Vermont citizens, the environment, and the economy.

2 Accelerated weatherization efforts will:

3 (1) Provide fuel-cost savings and savings for the Low Income Home
4 Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Home Heating Fuel Assistance
5 Program.

6 (2) Increase job opportunities in the field of weatherization and
7 alternative heating systems by recruiting and training new applicants to the
8 industry.

9 (3) Weatherization is a means for homeowners to protect the
10 environment and diminish the outflow of the money to the fossil fuel industry.

11 (4) Workforce availability remains a limiting factor in Vermont's effort
12 to comply with required greenhouse gas emissions reductions from the
13 building sector. Increasing the wage level while aggressively recruiting and
14 training new applicants can eventually overcome the workforce shortage.

15 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 2502 is amended to read:

16 § 2502. HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

17 * * *

18 (b) In addition, the Director shall supplement or supplant any federal
19 program with the State Home Weatherization Assistance Program.

20 * * *

1 percent beginning in fiscal year 2026; 15 percent beginning in fiscal year 2027;
2 and 15 percent beginning in fiscal year 2028.

3 (J) Establishing a partnership with the energy efficiency utilities to
4 provide free weatherization services to eligible households with income less
5 than 125 percent of the county or State median income, whichever is greater.

6 The participating energy efficiency utilities shall comply with the salary
7 increases in subdivision (I) of this subdivision (b)(3). The Director shall
8 reimburse the utilities from funds in the Home Weatherization Assistance
9 Fund, provided, that reimbursement was made within a limit of 10 percent of
10 the Fund.

11 * * *

12 Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 2503 is amended to read:

13 § 2503. FUEL TAX

14 (a)(1) There is imposed a tax on the retail sale of heating oil, propane,
15 kerosene, and other dyed diesel fuel delivered in Vermont, at the rate of:

16 (A) \$0.02 per gallon until June 30, 2026;

17 (B) \$0.04 per gallon from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028; and

18 (C) \$0.08 per gallon beginning on July 1, 2028.

19 (2) There is imposed a gross receipts tax of 0.75 percent on the retail
20 sale of natural gas and coal.

