

1 H.278

2 Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Eastes of Guilford,

3 Mrowicki of Putney, and Olson of Starksboro

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Public service; energy; energy storage; community resilience

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the  
8 State's electric distribution utilities and Vermont Electric Power Company  
9 (VELCO) to submit to the Department of Public Service a report, including an  
10 electric system map, identifying where energy storage facilities and flexible  
11 load management initiatives, and how much of each solution, would deliver the  
12 greatest reliability, affordability, community resilience, and sustainability  
13 benefits, which would then be used by the Clean Energy Development Board  
14 to award grants to those locations.

15 An act relating to a plan on energy storage development

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

17 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8017 is added to read:

18 § 8017. ENERGY RESILIENCY PLAN AND MAP

19 (a) On or before December 31, 2026, in order to develop a plan to help  
20 develop energy storage assets and flexible load solutions and address repeated

1 issues with the electric grid, Vermont's distribution and transmission utilities  
2 shall develop and submit a report, including a map, establishing where storage  
3 assets and flexible load management initiatives, and how much of each  
4 solution, have the greatest potential to mitigate, resolve, or forestall  
5 distribution grid and transmission grid reliability, affordability, community  
6 resiliency, and sustainability issues. This report shall utilize all relevant utility,  
7 State, and regional system reliability data and projected load growth and  
8 community health indicator data to identify where public and private fund  
9 investments will deliver the greatest value. This report and map shall be used  
10 as a guide for where best to site energy storage facilities and direct flexible  
11 load initiatives and will estimate the type and amount of each energy solution.

12 (b) The report shall also:

13 (1) provide a reasonable cost-benefit analysis that presents a general  
14 quantification of the value of the return on the dollars invested in energy  
15 storage assets and flexible load management initiatives, including benefits of  
16 responsible investments and associated returns, financial and nonfinancial, to  
17 ratepayers from the provision of services, including energy price arbitrage,  
18 capacity, ancillary services, and transmission and distribution asset deferral or  
19 substitution;

20 (2) direct long-term investment returns to ratepayers that deploy energy  
21 storage systems and leverage flexible load management capabilities;

1           (3) improve the ability to integrate renewable resources at the local,  
2           State, and regional level;

3           (4) improve reliability and power quality;

4           (5) estimate the effect on retail electric rates over the life of a given  
5           energy storage system compared to the effect on retail electric rates using a  
6           nonenergy storage system alternative over the life of the nonenergy storage  
7           system alternative;

8           (6) identify utility service territories or communities or buildings where  
9           adding energy storage assets would provide a major enhanced reliability  
10          benefit, including helping to keep a hospital, community center, warming  
11          shelter, emergency response facility, or other key building or buildings online  
12          during an outage;

13          (7) identify areas with significant existing grid constraints for  
14          electrification and for distribution generation;

15          (8) estimate reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and

16          (9) estimate economic development benefits.

17          (c) The Department shall collaborate, as necessary, in the development of  
18          the plan with electric and efficiency utilities, Vermont Electric Power  
19          Company (VELCO), regional planning commissions, and energy and  
20          environmental organizations and shall integrate the report and map findings

1 into existing required energy plans and present it to the Climate Council for  
2 inclusion in the Climate Action Plan.

3 (d) The Department may require stakeholders to sign confidentiality  
4 agreements to address any confidential and proprietary information; however,  
5 the map shall be made available to relevant stakeholders involved in energy  
6 storage and flexible load management.

7 (e) The Department shall submit the report and map to the Public Utility  
8 Commission and, to the degree that energy security allows, the General  
9 Assembly, identifying those areas with energy storage assets and flexible load  
10 management initiatives, including how much of each type of resource could  
11 deliver the greatest reliability, affordability, community resiliency, and  
12 sustainability value, including the associated quantitative and qualitative  
13 benefits with different investment and deployment scenarios.

14 (f) The plan shall be updated biennially. Future revisions of the plan shall  
15 include review of the Municipal Energy Resilience Program assessment,  
16 VELCO's Long-Range Transmission Plan, the environmental justice mapping  
17 tool, distribution utility integrated resource plans, efficiency utility demand  
18 response plans, and other relevant data.

19 (g) The Clean Energy Development Board shall use the energy resiliency  
20 plan as a guide to award grants for the development of energy storage facilities  
21 in the identified locations.

