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H.287

Introduced by Representatives Hooper of Burlington, Bosch of Clarendon,
Coffin of Cavendish, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Gregoire of
Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Hooper of Randolph,
Morgan, M. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of
Putney, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Winter
of Ludlow

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Public service; energy; nuclear energy

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
Secretary to conduct feasibility study of reintroducing nuclear power
generation in Vermont.

An act relating to a consortium on nuclear power feasibility

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

Sec. 1. VERMONT SMALL NUCLEAR CONSORTIUM

(a) Creation. On or before August 1, 2025, in order to assist in reaching the
State’s climate goals and to provide for economic development opportunities,
the Secretary of Administration shall convene the Vermont Small Nuclear

1 Consortium to identify the obstacles to constructing small modular reactors in
2 Vermont, including those in State and federal law.

3 (b) Membership. The Consortium shall have members appointed as
4 follows:

5 (1) the Secretary of Administration or designee;

6 (2) two current members of the House of Representatives, each from
7 separate political parties, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

8 (3) two current members of the Senate, each from separate political
9 parties, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

10 (4) a representative from an environmental organization, who shall be
11 appointed by the Secretary of Administration;

12 (5) representatives from at least three different electric distribution
13 utilities, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Administration;

14 (6) a representative from the State Treasurer's Office; and

15 (7) any person who participated in the prior Vermont Nuclear
16 Consortium.

17 (c) Powers and duties. The Consortium shall:

18 (1) review reasons why the prior nuclear generation facility closed, what
19 obstacles and opportunities exist in both State and federal law, and what
20 practical issues may exist that would prevent or facilitate a new facility from
21 opening;

1 (2) hear from a variety of stakeholders on this issue, including
2 representatives of relevant State agencies, representatives from developers, and
3 proponents of small modular reactors; and

4 (3) examine financial resources available to facilitate the construction of
5 small nuclear reactors.

6 (d) Assistance. The Consortium shall have the assistance of the relevant
7 State agencies and may hire a consultant to assist the Consortium.

8 (e) Compensation and reimbursement.

9 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
10 Assembly, a legislative member of the Consortium serving in the legislator's
11 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
12 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than five
13 meetings in fiscal year 2026.

14 (2) Other members of the Consortium who are not otherwise
15 compensated by their employer shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
16 reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more
17 than five meetings in fiscal year 2026.

18 (3) The payments under this subsection shall be made from monies
19 appropriated by the General Assembly.

20 (f) Report. On or before August 1, 2026, the Consortium shall submit a
21 written report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, the

1 House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, and the Governor with
2 a summary of the feasibility study and recommendations for next steps,
3 including any legislative action needed.

4 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

5 In fiscal year 2026, \$23,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
6 Secretary of Administration for the compensation for Consortium members
7 and to hire a consultant to assist the work of the Vermont Small Nuclear
8 Consortium.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on passage.