

S.317

Introduced by Senators Heffernan and Williams

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Public service; health; weatherization; funding

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

An act relating to weatherization funding and weatherization workforce recruitment

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) In addition to the weatherization efforts provided under the current Home Weatherization Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 25, an increased pace of weatherization would benefit the health of Vermont

1 citizens, the environment, and the economy. Accelerated weatherization  
2 efforts will:

3 (A) provide fuel cost savings and savings for the Low Income Home  
4 Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Home Heating Fuel Assistance  
5 Program; and

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

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

11 (3) Workforce availability remains a limiting factor in Vermont's effort  
12 to comply with required reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the  
13 building sector. Increasing wages while aggressively recruiting and training  
14 new applicants can eventually help to 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 \* \* \*

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

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

3 \* \* \*

6           Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

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