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S.146

Introduced by Senators Perchlik, Chittenden, Hardy, Hooker, Lyons and
Pearson

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: State buildings; energy; renewable heating system

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
replacement of any fossil fuel space heating systems owned or controlled by
the Department of Buildings and General Services, the Department of Forests,
Parks and Recreation, and the Agency of Transportation with renewable space
heating systems.

An act relating to space heating systems owned or controlled by the State

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The State has options to use non-fossil fuel space heating for
buildings that are owned or controlled by the State that provide an equivalent
or better heating and cooling source.

1 (2) In the State of Vermont, there are non-fossil fuel space heating
2 options that use local fuel, including wood fuels such as cord wood, wood
3 chips, and wood pellets.

4 (3) With 80 percent of funds spent on wood heating coming from the
5 local Vermont economy as compared to only 20 percent when heating oil is
6 used, the use of advanced wood heating systems supports the State's economy
7 at large and specifically the forest products industry.

8 (4) Support for the State's forest products industry is particularly needed
9 due to the slump in the demand for low-grade wood in the Northeast.

10 (5) The installation of wood heating systems will help to build an
11 advanced wood heating industry sector in Vermont and the Northeast.

12 (6) The installation of non-fossil fuel space heating systems will likely
13 save the State money on heating costs as compared to fossil fuels.

14 (7) The installation of non-fossil fuel space heating systems will help to
15 meet the State's renewable energy goals and greenhouse gas reduction
16 requirements, as required by 10 V.S.A. § 578 and 30 V.S.A. § 202b.

17 Sec. 2. FISCAL YEAR 2023; DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND
18 GENERAL SERVICES; SPACE HEATING SYSTEMS;
19 NON-FOSSIL FUELS; REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE; BACKUP
20 HEATING

21 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

1 (1) “Fossil fuel space heating system” is any space heating system that
2 is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

3 (2) “Non-fossil fuel space heating system” means a space heating
4 system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that exclusively utilizes
5 renewable liquid fuel.

6 (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
7 section, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Department of Buildings and
8 General Services shall only install non-fossil fuel space heating systems as the
9 primary heating source in buildings owned or controlled by the Department.

10 (c) Exemption. The Commissioner may provide a written exemption to the
11 replacement required in subsection (b) of this section if the Commissioner
12 determines that it is financially impracticable to install a non-fossil fuel space
13 heating system as a primary heating source.

14 (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a
15 non-fossil fuel space heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if
16 a non-fossil fuel backup space heating system is not available, the
17 Commissioner may continue to use fossil fuel space heating systems as backup
18 heating or as supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings
19 owned or controlled by the Commissioner.

20 (e) Report. On or before January 15 each year, the Commissioner shall
21 submit a report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and

1 the Senate Committee on Institutions with the basis of each exemption
2 provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any fossil fuel space
3 heating systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The provisions of
4 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to
5 be made under this subsection.

6 Sec. 3. FISCAL YEAR 2023; AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION; SPACE
7 HEATING SYSTEMS; NON-FOSSIL FUELS; REPLACEMENT
8 SCHEDULE; BACKUP HEATING

9 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

10 (1) “Fossil fuel space heating system” is any space heating system that
11 is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

12 (2) “Non-fossil fuel space heating system” means a space heating
13 system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that exclusively utilizes
14 renewable liquid fuel.

15 (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
16 section, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Agency of Transportation shall only
17 install non-fossil fuel space heating systems as the primary heating source in
18 buildings owned or controlled by the Agency.

19 (c) Exemption. The Secretary may provide a written exemption to the
20 replacement required in subsection (b) of this section if the Secretary

1 determines that it is financially impracticable to install a non-fossil fuel space
2 heating system as a primary heating source.

3 (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a
4 non-fossil fuel space heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if
5 a non-fossil fuel backup space heating system is not available, the Agency may
6 continue to use fossil fuel space heating systems as backup heating or as
7 supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings owned or
8 controlled by the Agency.

9 (e) Report. On or before January 15 each year, the Secretary shall submit a
10 report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation with the basis of
11 each exemption provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any
12 fossil fuel space heating systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The
13 provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply
14 to the report to be made under this subsection.

15 Sec. 4. FISCAL YEAR 2023; DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND
16 RECREATION; SPACE HEATING SYSTEMS; NON-FOSSIL
17 FUELS; REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE; BACKUP HEATING

18 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

19 (1) “Fossil fuel space heating system” is any space heating system that
20 is not a non-fossil fuel space heating system.

1 (2) “Non-fossil fuel space heating system” means a space heating
2 system that is not designed to utilize fossil fuels or that exclusively utilizes
3 renewable liquid fuel.

4 (b) Replacement system. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
5 section, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Department of Forests, Parks and
6 Recreation shall only install non-fossil fuel space heating systems as the
7 primary heating source in buildings owned or controlled by the Department.

8 (c) Exemption. The Department may provide a written exemption to the
9 replacement required in subsection (b) of this section if the Department
10 determines that it is financially impracticable to install a non-fossil fuel space
11 heating system as a primary heating source.

12 (d) Backup systems. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, after a
13 non-fossil fuel space heating system is installed as a primary heating source, if
14 a non-fossil fuel backup space heating system is not available, the Department
15 may continue to use fossil fuel space heating systems as backup heating or as
16 supplemental heating during peak heating periods in buildings owned or
17 controlled by the Department.

18 (e) Report. On or before January 15 each year, the Secretary shall submit a
19 report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate
20 Committee on Corrections and Institutions on with the basis of each exemption
21 provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any fossil fuel space

1 heating systems installed, in the previous calendar year. The provisions of
2 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to
3 be made under this subsection.

4 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.