

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to amend and reenact § 30-305 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Commission on
2 Energy and the Environment.

3 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

4 **1. That § 30-305 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

5 § 30-305. Powers and duties.

6 The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

7 1. To undertake studies, gather information and data, and make recommendations as may be
8 necessary to accomplish its purposes as set forth in this chapter, including:

9 a. To evaluate the impact of state and federal energy statutes and regulations;

10 b. To identify reliable supplies of energy;

11 c. To pursue distributed generation plans;

12 d. To evaluate the upgrading electric power grids and other energy infrastructure;

13 e. To evaluate the impact of carbon taxing, cap and trade programs, carbon sequestration, or
14 other carbon measures on the rate payer and utility;

15 f. To evaluate the research, development, and use of alternative and renewable sources of energy;

16 g. To evaluate remote power production;

17 h. To evaluate demand-side energy conservation by utilities and consumers with appropriate
18 return on investments by utilities;

19 i. To evaluate energy efficiency goals;

20 j. To evaluate renewable energy portfolios;

21 k. To evaluate all energy consumption and demand reduction alternatives, their ability to reduce
22 energy growth, their cost effectiveness, economic impacts on the Commonwealth, and impacts on the
23 rate payers;

24 l. To evaluate programs that reduce energy consumption;

25 m. To evaluate low-income energy assistance programs; and

n. To evaluate rate decoupling, time-of-use pricing, building standards for energy efficient commercial and residential buildings or public buildings, and transportation demand management. Wherever possible, the Commission shall examine opportunities to couple the achievement of its purposes with economic development;

2. Make such special studies of and reports on measures to secure Virginia's energy future as it deems appropriate or as may be requested by the General Assembly;

3. Establish advisory committees composed of persons with special expertise not represented by individuals serving on the Commission. Such persons shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed from funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Commission for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825, unless they waive reimbursement;

4. Apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants or donations from any public or private sources to enable the Commission to carry out its objectives. No person that provides a gift, grant, or donation shall be eligible for a contract award resulting from a Commission recommendation;

5. Review and make recommendations on legislation affecting energy policy to the General Assembly;

6. Update the Climate Change Action Plan on or before October 1, 2011, and every two years thereafter. The Plan shall (i) inventory the amount of and contributors to Virginia's greenhouse gas emissions, and projections through the subsequent 15 years; (ii) evaluate expected impacts of climate change on the Commonwealth's natural resources, the health of its citizens, and the economy, including the industries of agriculture, forestry, tourism, and insurance; (iii) identify necessary preparations for the likely consequences of climate change; (iv) identify the actions, beyond those identified in the Virginia Energy Plan (§ 67-200 et seq.), that should be taken to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and (v) identify climate change approaches being pursued by other states, regions, and the federal government. Support to the Commission shall be provided by the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, and other agencies as requested. All executive

53 branch agencies shall cooperate fully with the Commission and provide any assistance upon request of
54 the Commission or its staff; and

55 67. Report annually on its activities during the preceding year and include a discussion of studies
56 made and recommendations for legislative action. The chairman shall submit to the General Assembly
57 and the Governor an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no
58 later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be
59 submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the
60 processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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