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S.136

Introduced by Senators Wrenner, Collamore, Weeks and Williams

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; air pollution control; greenhouse gas
reductions; climate change

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to change the
dates by which Vermont must reduce its statewide greenhouse gas emissions.

An act relating to addressing climate change

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

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 578 is amended to read:

§ 578. GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS

(a) Greenhouse gas reduction requirements. Vermont shall reduce
emissions of greenhouse gases from within the geographical boundaries of the
State and those emissions outside the boundaries of the State that are caused by
the use of energy in Vermont, as measured and inventoried pursuant to section
582 of this title, by:

(1) not less than 26 percent from 2005 greenhouse gas emissions by
January 1, ~~2025~~ 2030 pursuant to the State's membership in the United States

1 Climate Alliance and commitment to implement policies to achieve the
2 objectives of the 2016 Paris Agreement;

3 (2) not less than 40 percent from 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by
4 January 1, ~~2030~~ 2040 pursuant to the State's 2016 Comprehensive Energy
5 Plan; and

6 (3) not less than 80 percent from 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by
7 January 1, ~~2050~~ 2060 pursuant to the State's 2016 Comprehensive Energy
8 Plan.

9 * * *

10 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. chapter 24 is amended to read:

11 CHAPTER 24. VERMONT CLIMATE COUNCIL AND CLIMATE

12 ACTION PLAN

13 * * *

14 § 592. THE VERMONT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

15 * * *

16 (b) The Plan shall set forth the specific initiatives, programs, and strategies,
17 including regulatory and legislative changes, necessary to achieve the State's
18 greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements pursuant to section 578 of
19 this title and build resilience to prepare the State's communities, infrastructure,
20 and economy to adapt to the current and anticipated effects of climate change.
21 The Plan shall include specific initiatives, programs, and strategies that will:

1 (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation, building,
2 regulated utility, industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors;

3 (2) encourage smart growth and related strategies;

4 (3) achieve long-term sequestration and storage of carbon and promote
5 best management practices to achieve climate mitigation, adaption, and
6 resilience on natural working lands;

7 (4) achieve net zero emissions by ~~2050~~ 2060 across all sectors;

8 * * *

9 § 593. RULES

10 * * *

11 (b) On or before December 1, ~~2022~~ 2025, the Secretary shall adopt and
12 implement rules consistent with the specific initiatives, programs, and
13 strategies set forth in the Plan and achieve the ~~2025~~ 2030 greenhouse gas
14 emissions reduction requirement pursuant to section 578 of this title.

15 * * *

16 (d) The Secretary shall, on or before July 1, ~~2024~~ 2027, review and, if
17 necessary, update the rules required by subsection (b) of this section in order to
18 ensure that the ~~2025~~ 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirement
19 pursuant to section 578 of this title is achieved. In performing this review and
20 update, the Secretary shall observe the requirements of subsection (c) of this
21 section.

1 (e) On or before July 1, ~~2026~~ 2035, the Secretary shall adopt and
2 implement rules consistent with the specific initiatives, programs, and
3 strategies set forth in the Plan and updates to the Plan and achieve the ~~2030~~
4 2040 greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirement pursuant to section 578
5 of this title. The Secretary shall observe the requirements of subsection (c) of
6 this section.

7 (f) The Secretary shall, at ~~his or her~~ the Secretary's discretion, but not less
8 frequently than once every two years between ~~2026~~ 2035 and ~~2030~~ 2040,
9 review and, if necessary, update the rules required by subsection (e) of this
10 section in order to ensure that the ~~2030~~ 2040 greenhouse gas emissions
11 reduction requirement pursuant to section 578 of this title is achieved. In
12 performing this review and update, the Secretary shall observe the
13 requirements of subsection (c) of this section.

14 (g) On or before July 1, ~~2040~~ 2050, the Secretary shall adopt and
15 implement rules consistent with the specific initiatives, programs, and
16 strategies set forth in the Plan and updates to the Plan and achieve the ~~2040~~
17 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirement pursuant to section 578
18 of this title.

19 (h) The Secretary shall, at ~~his or her~~ the Secretary's discretion, but not less
20 frequently than once every two years between ~~2040~~ 2050 and ~~2050~~ 2060,
21 review and, if necessary, update the rules required by subsection (g) of this

1 section in order to ensure that the ~~2050~~ 2060 greenhouse gas emissions
2 reduction requirement pursuant to section 578 of this title is achieved. In
3 performing this review and update, the Secretary shall observe the
4 requirements of subsection (c) of this section.

5 (i) The Secretary may establish alternative reduction mechanisms to be
6 used by sources of greenhouse gas emissions, if necessary, to achieve net zero
7 emissions after ~~2050~~ 2060.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 3. CONFORMING REVISIONS

10 When preparing the Vermont Statutes Annotated for publication in 2023,
11 the Office of Legislative Counsel shall replace “2030” with “2035” and shall
12 replace “2050” with “2060” in 30 V.S.A. § 8124.

13 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on passage.