

2007 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 686

Directing the Commission on Electric Utility Restructuring to include in its deliberations an evaluation of the efficacy of a voluntary program to encourage the production of electricity from renewable resources. Report.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 2, 2007
Agreed to by the Senate, February 21, 2007

WHEREAS, renewable energy provides numerous advantages, including improved air quality, in-state jobs, stable fuel supplies and costs, and reduced dependence on fuel sources from other countries; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, the NC GreenPower program provides an example of an initiative that may offer an efficient, voluntary way to encourage the use of "green power," which refers to electricity generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind, biomass, and water; and

WHEREAS, the goal of NC GreenPower is to supplement the state's existing power supply with more green power; and

WHEREAS, NC GreenPower is an independent, nonprofit organization established to improve North Carolina's environment through voluntary contributions toward renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, NC GreenPower is the first statewide green energy program in the nation supported by all that state's utilities; and

WHEREAS, the NC GreenPower initiative has been approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and is administered by Advanced Energy, an independent nonprofit corporation; and

WHEREAS, NC GreenPower accepts financial contributions from North Carolina citizens and businesses and uses the contributions to help offset the costs of producing green energy; and

WHEREAS, residential and small commercial customers who elect to participate in the voluntary program agree to make tax-deductible contributions of \$4 per month, which adds one block of 100 kilowatt-hours of green energy to North Carolina's power supply, and larger electricity users may contribute \$2.50 per month for each 100-kilowatt-hour block of green power, with a minimum commitment of 100 blocks (10,000 kWh) per month for one year; and

WHEREAS, an analysis of whether the NC GreenPower initiative should be the model for a similar program in Virginia is timely; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Commission on Electric Utility Restructuring be directed to include in its deliberations an evaluation of the efficacy of a voluntary program to encourage the production of electricity from renewable resources.

The Commission on Electric Utility Restructuring shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary and report of its progress in meeting the directive of this resolution no later than the first day of the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary and report shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

ENROLLED

HJ686ER