

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2019 SESSION

CHAPTER 398

An Act to amend and reenact the fifteenth enactment of Chapter 296 of the Acts of Assembly of 2018, relating to stakeholder processes for the development of energy efficiency programs.

[S 1605]

Approved March 14, 2019

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the fifteenth enactment of Chapter 296 of the Acts of Assembly of 2018 is amended and reenacted as follows:

15. That each Phase I Utility and Phase II Utility, as such terms are defined in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, shall develop a proposed program of energy conservation measures. Any program shall provide for the submission of a petition or petitions for approval to design, implement, and operate energy efficiency programs pursuant to subdivision A 5 c of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia. At least five percent of such energy efficiency programs shall benefit low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals. The projected costs for the utility to design, implement, and operate such energy efficiency programs, including a margin to be recovered on operating expenses, shall be no less than an aggregate amount of \$140 million for a Phase I Utility and \$870 million for a Phase II Utility for the period beginning July 1, 2018, and ending July 1, 2028, including any existing approved energy efficiency programs. In developing such portfolio of energy efficiency programs, each utility shall utilize a stakeholder process, to be facilitated by an independent monitor compensated under the funding provided pursuant to subdivision E of § 56-592.1 of the Code of Virginia, to provide input and feedback on the development of such energy efficiency programs. Such stakeholder process shall include representatives from each utility, the State Corporation Commission, the office of Consumer Counsel of the Attorney General, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, energy efficiency program implementers, energy efficiency providers, residential and small business customers, and any other interested stakeholder who the independent monitor deems appropriate for inclusion in such process. *The independent monitor shall convene meetings of the participants in the stakeholder process not less frequently than twice in each calendar year during the period beginning July 1, 2019, and ending July 1, 2028. The ~~utility~~ independent monitor shall report on the status of the energy efficiency ~~program~~ stakeholder process, including (i) the objectives established by the stakeholder group during this process related to programs to be proposed, (ii) recommendations related to programs to be proposed that result from the stakeholder process, and (iii) the status of those recommendations, in addition to the petitions filed and the determination thereon, to the Governor, the State Corporation Commission, and the Chairmen of the House and Senate Commerce and Labor Committees on July 1, 2019, and annually thereafter through July 1, 2028.*