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SENATE BILL NO. 549

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the House Committee on Labor and Commerce
on February 18, 2020)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Newman)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 67-200 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 67 a chapter numbered 17, consisting of a section numbered 67-1700, relating to nuclear energy; strategic plan.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 67-200 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 67 a chapter numbered 17, consisting of a section numbered 67-1700, as follows:

§ 67-200. Definitions.

As used in this title:

"Department" means the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

"Division" means the Division of Energy of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

"Plan" means the Virginia Energy Plan prepared pursuant to this chapter, including any updates thereto.

CHAPTER 17.

NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANNING.

§ 67-1700. Nuclear energy; strategic plan.

A. The Department and the Secretaries of Commerce and Trade and Education shall work in coordination with the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA), established pursuant to Chapter 14 (§ 67-1400 et seq.), and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority, established pursuant to Article 4 (§ 2.2-2234 et seq.) of Chapter 22 of Title 2.2, to develop a strategic plan for nuclear energy as part of the Commonwealth's overall goal of carbon-free energy.

B. Such plan may include (i) the promotion of new technologies and opportunities for innovation, including advanced manufacturing; (ii) the establishment of a collaborative research center and university nuclear leadership program to promote education in fields that meet the workforce demands of Virginia's nuclear industry; and (iii) recognition of the role of nuclear energy in the Commonwealth's goal of employing 100 percent carbon-free sources of energy by 2050.

C. Such plan shall be completed by October 1, 2020, shall be updated every four years thereafter, and shall be published on the Internet by VNECA.