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**HOUSE BILL NO. 74**

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 4, 2022

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 56-576, 56-585.1:11, and 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Clean Economy Act; non-bypassable charges; energy-intensive trade-exposed industries.*

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 Patron—Ware
 

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 Referred to Committee on Commerce and Energy
 

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

**1. That §§ 56-576, 56-585.1:11, and 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 56-576. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

"Affiliate" means any person that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with an electric utility.

"Aggregator" means a person that, as an agent or intermediary, (i) offers to purchase, or purchases, electric energy or (ii) offers to arrange for, or arranges for, the purchase of electric energy, for sale to, or on behalf of, two or more retail customers not controlled by or under common control with such person. The following activities shall not, in and of themselves, make a person an aggregator under this chapter: (i) furnishing legal services to two or more retail customers, suppliers or aggregators; (ii) furnishing educational, informational, or analytical services to two or more retail customers, unless direct or indirect compensation for such services is paid by an aggregator or supplier of electric energy; (iii) furnishing educational, informational, or analytical services to two or more suppliers or aggregators; (iv) providing default service under § 56-585; (v) engaging in activities of a retail electric energy supplier, licensed pursuant to § 56-587, which are authorized by such supplier's license; and (vi) engaging in actions of a retail customer, in common with one or more other such retail customers, to issue a request for proposal or to negotiate a purchase of electric energy for consumption by such retail customers.

(Expires December 31, 2023) "Business park" means a land development containing a minimum of 100 contiguous acres classified as a Tier 4 site under the Virginia Economic Development Partnership's Business Ready Sites Program that is developed and constructed by an industrial development authority, or a similar political subdivision of the Commonwealth created pursuant to § 15.2-4903 or other act of the General Assembly, in order to promote business development and that is located in an area of the Commonwealth designated as a qualified opportunity zone by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury via his delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service.

"Combined heat and power" means a method of using waste heat from electrical generation to offset traditional processes, space heating, air conditioning, or refrigeration.

"Commission" means the State Corporation Commission.

"Community in which a majority of the population are people of color" means a U.S. Census tract where more than 50 percent of the population comprises individuals who identify as belonging to one or more of the following groups: Black, African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, other non-white race, mixed race, Hispanic, Latino, or linguistically isolated.

"Cooperative" means a utility formed under or subject to Chapter 9.1 (§ 56-231.15 et seq.).

"Covered entity" means a provider in the Commonwealth of an electric service not subject to competition but does not include default service providers.

"Covered transaction" means an acquisition, merger, or consolidation of, or other transaction involving stock, securities, voting interests or assets by which one or more persons obtains control of a covered entity.

"Curtailment" means inducing retail customers to reduce load during times of peak demand so as to ease the burden on the electrical grid.

"Customer choice" means the opportunity for a retail customer in the Commonwealth to purchase electric energy from any supplier licensed and seeking to sell electric energy to that customer.

"Demand response" means measures aimed at shifting time of use of electricity from peak-use periods to times of lower demand by inducing retail customers to curtail electricity usage during periods of congestion and higher prices in the electrical grid.

"Distribute," "distributing," or "distribution of" electric energy means the transfer of electric energy through a retail distribution system to a retail customer.

"Distributor" means a person owning, controlling, or operating a retail distribution system to provide

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59 electric energy directly to retail customers.

60 "Electric distribution grid transformation project" means a project associated with electric distribution  
61 infrastructure, including related data analytics equipment, that is designed to accommodate or facilitate  
62 the integration of utility-owned or customer-owned renewable electric generation resources with the  
63 utility's electric distribution grid or to otherwise enhance electric distribution grid reliability, electric  
64 distribution grid security, customer service, or energy efficiency and conservation, including advanced  
65 metering infrastructure; intelligent grid devices for real time system and asset information; automated  
66 control systems for electric distribution circuits and substations; communications networks for service  
67 meters; intelligent grid devices and other distribution equipment; distribution system hardening projects  
68 for circuits, other than the conversion of overhead tap lines to underground service, and substations  
69 designed to reduce service outages or service restoration times; physical security measures at key  
70 distribution substations; cyber security measures; energy storage systems and microgrids that support  
71 circuit-level grid stability, power quality, reliability, or resiliency or provide temporary backup energy  
72 supply; electrical facilities and infrastructure necessary to support electric vehicle charging systems; LED  
73 street light conversions; and new customer information platforms designed to provide improved customer  
74 access, greater service options, and expanded access to energy usage information.

75 "Electric utility" means any person that generates, transmits, or distributes electric energy for use by  
76 retail customers in the Commonwealth, including any investor-owned electric utility, cooperative electric  
77 utility, or electric utility owned or operated by a municipality.

78 "Energy efficiency program" means a program that reduces the total amount of electricity that is  
79 required for the same process or activity implemented after the expiration of capped rates. Energy  
80 efficiency programs include equipment, physical, or program change designed to produce measured and  
81 verified reductions in the amount of electricity required to perform the same function and produce the  
82 same or a similar outcome. Energy efficiency programs may include, but are not limited to, (i) programs  
83 that result in improvements in lighting design, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems,  
84 appliances, building envelopes, and industrial and commercial processes; (ii) measures, such as but not  
85 limited to the installation of advanced meters, implemented or installed by utilities, that reduce fuel use  
86 or losses of electricity and otherwise improve internal operating efficiency in generation, transmission,  
87 and distribution systems; and (iii) customer engagement programs that result in measurable and  
88 verifiable energy savings that lead to efficient use patterns and practices. Energy efficiency programs  
89 include demand response, combined heat and power and waste heat recovery, curtailment, or other  
90 programs that are designed to reduce electricity consumption so long as they reduce the total amount of  
91 electricity that is required for the same process or activity. Utilities shall be authorized to install and  
92 operate such advanced metering technology and equipment on a customer's premises; however, nothing  
93 in this chapter establishes a requirement that an energy efficiency program be implemented on a  
94 customer's premises and be connected to a customer's wiring on the customer's side of the  
95 inter-connection without the customer's expressed consent.

96 "Energy-intensive trade-exposed industries" or "EITE industries" means companies that are  
97 constrained in their ability to pass through carbon costs due to international competition and engage in  
98 importation of products that cause emission leakage, identified by the NAICS and defined within the  
99 American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. "EITE industries" also means critical infrastructure  
100 facilities identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Defense  
101 through its Critical Infrastructure Program, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
102 and its Defense Industrial Base Sector.

103 "Generate," "generating," or "generation of" electric energy means the production of electric energy.

104 "Generator" means a person owning, controlling, or operating a facility that produces electric energy  
105 for sale.

106 "Historically economically disadvantaged community" means (i) a community in which a majority of  
107 the population are people of color or (ii) a low-income geographic area.

108 "Incumbent electric utility" means each electric utility in the Commonwealth that, prior to July 1,  
109 1999, supplied electric energy to retail customers located in an exclusive service territory established by  
110 the Commission.

111 "Independent system operator" means a person that may receive or has received, by transfer pursuant  
112 to this chapter, any ownership or control of, or any responsibility to operate, all or part of the  
113 transmission systems in the Commonwealth.

114 "In the public interest," for purposes of assessing energy efficiency programs, describes an energy  
115 efficiency program if the Commission determines that the net present value of the benefits exceeds the  
116 net present value of the costs as determined by not less than any three of the following four tests: (i) the  
117 Total Resource Cost Test; (ii) the Utility Cost Test (also referred to as the Program Administrator Test);  
118 (iii) the Participant Test; and (iv) the Ratepayer Impact Measure Test. Such determination shall include  
119 an analysis of all four tests, and a program or portfolio of programs shall be approved if the net present  
120 value of the benefits exceeds the net present value of the costs as determined by not less than any three

of the four tests. If the Commission determines that an energy efficiency program or portfolio of programs is not in the public interest, its final order shall include all work product and analysis conducted by the Commission's staff in relation to that program, including testimony relied upon by the Commission's staff, that has bearing upon the Commission's decision. If the Commission reduces the proposed budget for a program or portfolio of programs, its final order shall include an analysis of the impact such budget reduction has upon the cost-effectiveness of such program or portfolio of programs. An order by the Commission (a) finding that a program or portfolio of programs is not in the public interest or (b) reducing the proposed budget for any program or portfolio of programs shall adhere to existing protocols for extraordinarily sensitive information. In addition, an energy efficiency program may be deemed to be "in the public interest" if the program (1) provides measurable and verifiable energy savings to low-income customers or elderly customers or (2) is a pilot program of limited scope, cost, and duration, that is intended to determine whether a new or substantially revised program or technology would be cost-effective.

"Low-income geographic area" means any locality, or community within a locality, that has a median household income that is not greater than 80 percent of the local median household income, or any area in the Commonwealth designated as a qualified opportunity zone by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury via his delegation of authority to the Internal Revenue Service.

"Low-income utility customer" means any person or household whose income is no more than 80 percent of the median income of the locality in which the customer resides. The median income of the locality is determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Measured and verified" means a process determined pursuant to methods accepted for use by utilities and industries to measure, verify, and validate energy savings and peak demand savings. This may include the protocol established by the United States Department of Energy, Office of Federal Energy Management Programs, Measurement and Verification Guidance for Federal Energy Projects, measurement and verification standards developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), or engineering-based estimates of energy and demand savings associated with specific energy efficiency measures, as determined by the Commission.

"Municipality" means a city, county, town, authority, or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

"New underground facilities" means facilities to provide underground distribution service. "New underground facilities" includes underground cables with voltages of 69 kilovolts or less, pad-mounted devices, connections at customer meters, and transition terminations from existing overhead distribution sources.

"Peak-shaving" means measures aimed solely at shifting time of use of electricity from peak-use periods to times of lower demand by inducing retail customers to curtail electricity usage during periods of congestion and higher prices in the electrical grid.

"Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP) eligible utility customer" means any person or household whose income does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

"Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, company, business, trust, joint venture, or other private legal entity, and the Commonwealth or any municipality.

"Previously developed project site" means any property, including related buffer areas, if any, that has been previously disturbed or developed for non-single-family residential, non-agricultural, or non-silvicultural use, regardless of whether such property currently is being used for any purpose. "Previously developed project site" includes a brownfield as defined in § 10.1-1230 or any parcel that has been previously used (i) for a retail, commercial, or industrial purpose; (ii) as a parking lot; (iii) as the site of a parking lot canopy or structure; (iv) for mining, which is any lands affected by coal mining that took place before August 3, 1977, or any lands upon which extraction activities have been permitted by the Department of Energy under Title 45.2; (v) for quarrying; or (vi) as a landfill.

"Qualified waste heat resource" means (i) exhaust heat or flared gas from an industrial process that does not have, as its primary purpose, the production of electricity and (ii) a pressure drop in any gas for an industrial or commercial process.

"Renewable energy" means energy derived from sunlight, wind, falling water, biomass, sustainable or otherwise, (the definitions of which shall be liberally construed), energy from waste, landfill gas, municipal solid waste, wave motion, tides, and geothermal power, and does not include energy derived from coal, oil, natural gas, or nuclear power. "Renewable energy" also includes the proportion of the thermal or electric energy from a facility that results from the co-firing of biomass. "Renewable energy" does not include waste heat from fossil-fired facilities or electricity generated from pumped storage but includes run-of-river generation from a combined pumped-storage and run-of-river facility.

"Renewable thermal energy" means the thermal energy output from (i) a renewable-fueled combined heat and power generation facility that is (a) constructed, or renovated and improved, after January 1, 2012, (b) located in the Commonwealth, and (c) utilized in industrial processes other than the combined

182 heat and power generation facility or (ii) a solar energy system, certified to the OG-100 standard of the  
183 Solar Ratings and Certification Corporation or an equivalent certification body, that (a) is constructed, or  
184 renovated and improved, after January 1, 2013, (b) is located in the Commonwealth, and (c) heats water  
185 or air for residential, commercial, institutional, or industrial purposes.

186 "Renewable thermal energy equivalent" means the electrical equivalent in megawatt hours of  
187 renewable thermal energy calculated by dividing (i) the heat content, measured in British thermal units  
188 (BTUs), of the renewable thermal energy at the point of transfer to a residential, commercial,  
189 institutional, or industrial process by (ii) the standard conversion factor of 3.413 million BTUs per  
190 megawatt hour.

191 "Renovated and improved facility" means a facility the components of which have been upgraded to  
192 enhance its operating efficiency.

193 "Retail customer" means any person that purchases retail electric energy for its own consumption at  
194 one or more metering points or nonmetered points of delivery located in the Commonwealth.

195 "Retail electric energy" means electric energy sold for ultimate consumption to a retail customer.

196 "Revenue reductions related to energy efficiency programs" means reductions in the collection of  
197 total non-fuel revenues, previously authorized by the Commission to be recovered from customers by a  
198 utility, that occur due to measured and verified decreased consumption of electricity caused by energy  
199 efficiency programs approved by the Commission and implemented by the utility, less the amount by  
200 which such non-fuel reductions in total revenues have been mitigated through other program-related  
201 factors, including reductions in variable operating expenses.

202 "Rooftop solar installation" means a distributed electric generation facility, storage facility, or  
203 generation and storage facility utilizing energy derived from sunlight, with a rated capacity of not less  
204 than 50 kilowatts, that is installed on the roof structure of an incumbent electric utility's commercial or  
205 industrial class customer, including host sites on commercial buildings, multifamily residential buildings,  
206 school or university buildings, and buildings of a church or religious body.

207 "Solar energy system" means a system of components that produces heat or electricity, or both, from  
208 sunlight.

209 "Supplier" means any generator, distributor, aggregator, broker, marketer, or other person who offers  
210 to sell or sells electric energy to retail customers and is licensed by the Commission to do so, but it  
211 does not mean a generator that produces electric energy exclusively for its own consumption or the  
212 consumption of an affiliate.

213 "Supply" or "supplying" electric energy means the sale of or the offer to sell electric energy to a  
214 retail customer.

215 "Total annual energy savings" means (i) the total combined kilowatt-hour savings achieved by  
216 electric utility energy efficiency and demand response programs and measures installed in that program  
217 year, as well as savings still being achieved by measures and programs implemented in prior years, or  
218 (ii) savings attributable to newly installed combined heat and power facilities, including waste  
219 heat-to-power facilities, and any associated reduction in transmission line losses, provided that biomass  
220 is not a fuel and the total efficiency, including the use of thermal energy, for eligible combined heat and  
221 power facilities must meet or exceed 65 percent and have a nameplate capacity rating of less than 25  
222 megawatts.

223 "Transmission of," "transmit," or "transmitting" electric energy means the transfer of electric energy  
224 through the Commonwealth's interconnected transmission grid from a generator to either a distributor or  
225 a retail customer.

226 "Transmission system" means those facilities and equipment that are required to provide for the  
227 transmission of electric energy.

228 "Waste heat to power" means a system that generates electricity through the recovery of a qualified  
229 waste heat resource.

230 **§ 56-585.1:11. Development of offshore wind capacity.**

231 A. As used in this section:

232 "Advanced clean energy buyer" means a commercial or industrial customer of a Phase II Utility,  
233 irrespective of generation supplier, (i) with an aggregate load over 100 megawatts; (ii) with an aggregate  
234 amount of at least 200 megawatts of solar or wind energy supply under contract with a term of 10 years  
235 or more from facilities located within the Commonwealth by January 1, 2024; and (iii) that directly  
236 procures from the utility the electric supply and environmental attributes of the offshore wind facility  
237 associated with the lesser of 50 megawatts of nameplate capacity or 15 percent of the commercial or  
238 industrial customer's annual peak demand for a contract period of 15 years.

239 "Aggregate load" means the combined electrical load associated with selected accounts of an  
240 advanced clean energy buyer with the same legal entity name as, or in the names of affiliated entities  
241 that control, are controlled by, or are under common control of, such legal entity or are the names of  
242 affiliated entities under a common parent.

243 "Control" means the legal right, directly or indirectly, to direct or cause the direction of the

management, actions, or policies of an affiliated entity, whether through the ability to exercise voting power, by contract, or otherwise. "Control" does not include control of an entity through a franchise or similar contractual agreement.

"Qualifying large general service customer" means a customer of a Phase II Utility, irrespective of general supplier, (i) whose peak demand during the most recent calendar year exceeded five megawatts and (ii) that contracts with the utility to directly procure electric supply and environmental attributes associated with the offshore wind facility in amounts commensurate with the customer's electric usage for a contract period of 15 years or more.

B. In order to meet the Commonwealth's clean energy goals, prior to December 31, 2034, the construction or purchase by a public utility of one or more offshore wind generation facilities located off the Commonwealth's Atlantic shoreline or in federal waters and interconnected directly into the Commonwealth, with an aggregate capacity of up to 5,200 megawatts, is in the public interest and the Commission shall so find, provided that no customers of the utility shall be responsible for costs of any such facility in a proportion greater than the utility's share of the facility.

C. 1. Pursuant to subsection B, construction by a Phase II Utility of one or more new utility-owned and utility-operated generating facilities utilizing energy derived from offshore wind and located off the Commonwealth's Atlantic shoreline, with an aggregate rated capacity of not less than 2,500 megawatts and not more than 3,000 megawatts, along with electrical transmission or distribution facilities associated therewith for interconnection is in the public interest. In acting upon any request for cost recovery by a Phase II Utility for costs associated with such a facility, the Commission shall determine the reasonableness and prudence of any such costs, provided that such costs shall be presumed to be reasonably and prudently incurred if the Commission determines that (i) the utility has complied with the competitive solicitation and procurement requirements pursuant to subsection E; (ii) the project's projected total levelized cost of energy, including any tax credit, on a cost per megawatt hour basis, inclusive of the costs of transmission and distribution facilities associated with the facility's interconnection, does not exceed 1.4 times the comparable cost, on an unweighted average basis, of a conventional simple cycle combustion turbine generating facility as estimated by the U.S. Energy Information Administration in its Annual Energy Outlook 2019; and (iii) the utility has commenced construction of such facilities for U.S. income taxation purposes prior to January 1, 2024, or has a plan for such facility or facilities to be in service prior to January 1, 2028. The Commission shall disallow costs, or any portion thereof, only if they are otherwise unreasonably and imprudently incurred. In its review, the Commission shall give due consideration to (a) the Commonwealth's renewable portfolio standards and carbon reduction requirements, (b) the promotion of new renewable generation resources, and (c) the economic development benefits of the project for the Commonwealth, including capital investments and job creation.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 56-585.1, the Commission shall not grant an enhanced rate of return to a Phase II Utility for the construction of one or more new utility-owned and utility-operated generating facilities utilizing energy derived from offshore wind and located off the Commonwealth's Atlantic shoreline pursuant to this section.

3. Any such costs proposed for recovery through a rate adjustment clause pursuant to subdivision A 6 of § 56-585.1 shall be allocated to all customers of the utility in the Commonwealth as a non-bypassable charge, regardless of the generation supplier of any such customer, other than (i) PIPP eligible utility customers, (ii) advanced clean energy buyers, (iii) *energy-intensive trade-exposed industries*, and ~~(iii)~~ (iv) qualifying large general service customers. No electric cooperative customer of the utility shall be assigned, nor shall the utility collect from any such cooperative, any of the costs of such facilities, including electrical transmission or distribution facilities associated therewith for interconnection. The Commission may promulgate such rules, regulations, or other directives necessary to administer the eligibility for these exemptions.

4. The Commission shall permit a portion of the nameplate capacity of any such facility, in the aggregate, to be allocated to (i) advanced clean energy buyers or (ii) qualifying large general service customers, provided that no more than 10 percent of the offshore wind facility's capacity is allocated to qualifying large general service customers. A Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for approval of a special contract with any advanced clean energy buyer, or any special rate applicable to qualifying large general service customers, pursuant to § 56-235.2, no later than 15 months prior to the projected commercial operation date of the facility, and all customer enrollments associated with such special contracts or rates shall be completed prior to commercial operation of the facility. Any such special contract or rate may include provisions for levelized rates of service over the duration of the customer's contracted agreement with the utility, and the Commission shall determine that such special contract or rate is designed to hold nonparticipating customers harmless over its term in connection with any petition for approval by the utility. The utility may petition for approval of such special contracts or rates in connection with any petition for approval of a rate adjustment clause pursuant to subdivision A

6 of § 56-585.1 to recover the costs of the facility, and the Commission shall rule upon any such petitions in its final order in such proceeding within nine months from the date of filing.

D. In constructing any such facility contemplated in subsection B, the utility shall develop and submit a plan to the Commission for review that includes the following considerations: (i) options for utilizing local workers; (ii) the economic development benefits of the project for the Commonwealth, including capital investments and job creation; (iii) consultation with the Commonwealth's Chief Workforce Development Officer, the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership on opportunities to advance the Commonwealth's workforce and economic development goals, including furtherance of apprenticeship and other workforce training programs; (iv) giving priority to the hiring, apprenticeship, and training of veterans, as that term is defined in § 2.2-2000.1, local workers, and workers from historically economically disadvantaged communities; and (v) procurement of equipment from Virginia-based or United States-based manufacturers using materials or product components made in Virginia or the United States, if reasonably available and competitively priced.

E. Any project constructed or purchased pursuant to subsection B shall (i) be subject to competitive procurement or solicitation for a substantial majority of the services and equipment, exclusive of interconnection costs, associated with the facility's construction; (ii) involve at least one experienced developer; and (iii) demonstrate the economic development benefits within the Commonwealth, including capital investments and job creation. A utility may give appropriate consideration to suppliers and developers that have demonstrated successful experience in offshore wind.

F. Any project shall include an environmental and fisheries mitigation plan submitted to the Commission for the construction and operation of such offshore wind facilities, provided that such plan includes an explicit description of the best management practices the bidder will employ that considers the latest science at the time the proposal is made to mitigate adverse impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems, and traditional or existing water-dependent uses. The plan shall include a summary of pre-construction assessment activities, consistent with federal requirements, to determine the spatial and temporal presence and abundance of marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, and bats in the offshore wind lease area.

#### **§ 56-585.5. Generation of electricity from renewable and zero carbon sources.**

A. As used in this section:

"Accelerated renewable energy buyer" means a commercial or industrial customer of a Phase I or Phase II Utility, irrespective of generation supplier, with an aggregate load over 25 megawatts in the prior calendar year, that enters into arrangements pursuant to subsection G, as certified by the Commission.

"Aggregate load" means the combined electrical load associated with selected accounts of an accelerated renewable energy buyer with the same legal entity name as, or in the names of affiliated entities that control, are controlled by, or are under common control of, such legal entity or are the names of affiliated entities under a common parent.

"Control" has the same meaning as provided in § 56-585.1:11.

"Falling water" means hydroelectric resources, including run-of-river generation from a combined pumped-storage and run-of-river facility. "Falling water" does not include electricity generated from pumped-storage facilities.

"Low-income qualifying projects" means a project that provides a minimum of 50 percent of the respective electric output to low-income utility customers as that term is defined in § 56-576.

"Phase I Utility" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1.

"Phase II Utility" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1.

"Previously developed project site" means any property, including related buffer areas, if any, that has been previously disturbed or developed for non-single-family residential, nonagricultural, or nonsilvicultural use, regardless of whether such property currently is being used for any purpose.

"Previously developed project site" includes a brownfield as defined in § 10.1-1230 or any parcel that has been previously used (i) for a retail, commercial, or industrial purpose; (ii) as a parking lot; (iii) as the site of a parking lot canopy or structure; (iv) for mining, which is any lands affected by coal mining that took place before August 3, 1977, or any lands upon which extraction activities have been permitted by the Department of Energy under Title 45.2; (v) for quarrying; or (vi) as a landfill.

"Total electric energy" means total electric energy sold to retail customers in the Commonwealth service territory of a Phase I or Phase II Utility, other than accelerated renewable energy buyers, by the incumbent electric utility or other retail supplier of electric energy in the previous calendar year, excluding an amount equivalent to the annual percentages of the electric energy that was supplied to such customer from nuclear generating plants located within the Commonwealth in the previous calendar year, provided such nuclear units were operating by July 1, 2020, or from any zero-carbon electric generating facilities not otherwise RPS eligible sources and placed into service in the Commonwealth after July 1, 2030.

"Zero-carbon electricity" means electricity generated by any generating unit that does not emit carbon dioxide as a by-product of combusting fuel to generate electricity.

B. 1. By December 31, 2024, except for any coal-fired electric generating units (i) jointly owned with a cooperative utility or (ii) owned and operated by a Phase II Utility located in the coalfield region of the Commonwealth that co-fires with biomass, any Phase I and Phase II Utility shall retire all generating units principally fueled by oil with a rated capacity in excess of 500 megawatts and all coal-fired electric generating units operating in the Commonwealth.

2. By December 31, 2028, each Phase I and II Utility shall retire all biomass-fired electric generating units that do not co-fire with coal.

3. By December 31, 2045, each Phase I and II Utility shall retire all other electric generating units located in the Commonwealth that emit carbon as a by-product of combusting fuel to generate electricity.

4. A Phase I or Phase II Utility may petition the Commission for relief from the requirements of this subsection on the basis that the requirement would threaten the reliability or security of electric service to customers. The Commission shall consider in-state and regional transmission entity resources and shall evaluate the reliability of each proposed retirement on a case-by-case basis in ruling upon any such petition.

C. Each Phase I and Phase II Utility shall participate in a renewable energy portfolio standard program (RPS Program) that establishes annual goals for the sale of renewable energy to all retail customers in the utility's service territory, other than accelerated renewable energy buyers pursuant to subsection G, regardless of whether such customers purchase electric supply service from the utility or from suppliers other than the utility. To comply with the RPS Program, each Phase I and Phase II Utility shall procure and retire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) originating from renewable energy standard eligible sources (RPS eligible sources). For purposes of complying with the RPS Program from 2021 to 2024, a Phase I and Phase II Utility may use RECs from any renewable energy facility, as defined in § 56-576, provided that such facilities are located in the Commonwealth or are physically located within the PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) region. However, at no time during this period or thereafter may any Phase I or Phase II Utility use RECs from (i) renewable thermal energy, (ii) renewable thermal energy equivalent, (iii) biomass-fired facilities that are outside the Commonwealth, or (iv) biomass-fired facilities operating in the Commonwealth as of January 1, 2020, that supply 10 percent or more of their annual net electrical generation to the electric grid or more than 15 percent of their annual total useful energy to any entity other than the manufacturing facility to which the generating source is interconnected. From compliance year 2025 and all years after, each Phase I and Phase II Utility may only use RECs from RPS eligible sources for compliance with the RPS Program.

In order to qualify as RPS eligible sources, such sources must be (a) electric-generating resources that generate electric energy derived from solar or wind located in the Commonwealth or off the Commonwealth's Atlantic shoreline or in federal waters and interconnected directly into the Commonwealth or physically located within the PJM region; (b) falling water resources located in the Commonwealth or physically located within the PJM region that were in operation as of January 1, 2020, that are owned by a Phase I or Phase II Utility or for which a Phase I or Phase II Utility has entered into a contract prior to January 1, 2020, to purchase the energy, capacity, and renewable attributes of such falling water resources; (c) non-utility-owned resources from falling water that (1) are less than 65 megawatts, (2) began commercial operation after December 31, 1979, or (3) added incremental generation representing greater than 50 percent of the original nameplate capacity after December 31, 1979, provided that such resources are located in the Commonwealth or are physically located within the PJM region; (d) waste-to-energy or landfill gas-fired generating resources located in the Commonwealth and in operation as of January 1, 2020, provided that such resources do not use waste heat from fossil fuel combustion or forest or woody biomass as fuel; or (e) biomass-fired facilities in operation in the Commonwealth and in operation as of January 1, 2020, that supply no more than 10 percent of their annual net electrical generation to the electric grid or no more than 15 percent of their annual total useful energy to any entity other than the manufacturing facility to which the generating source is interconnected. Regardless of any future maintenance, expansion, or refurbishment activities, the total amount of RECs that may be sold by any RPS eligible source using biomass in any year shall be no more than the number of megawatt hours of electricity produced by that facility in 2019; however, in no year may any RPS eligible source using biomass sell RECs in excess of the actual megawatt-hours of electricity generated by such facility that year. In order to comply with the RPS Program, each Phase I and Phase II Utility may use and retire the environmental attributes associated with any existing owned or contracted solar, wind, or falling water electric generating resources in operation, or proposed for operation, in the Commonwealth or physically located within the PJM region, with such resource qualifying as a Commonwealth-located resource for purposes of this subsection, as of January 1, 2020, provided such renewable attributes are verified as RECs consistent with the PJM-EIS

**428** Generation Attribute Tracking System.

**429** The RPS Program requirements shall be a percentage of the total electric energy sold in the previous  
**430** calendar year and shall be implemented in accordance with the following schedule:

Phase I Utilities			Phase II Utilities		
Year	RPS Program Requirement		Year	RPS Program Requirement	
2021	6%		2021	14%	
2022	7%		2022	17%	
2023	8%		2023	20%	
2024	10%		2024	23%	
2025	14%		2025	26%	
2026	17%		2026	29%	
2027	20%		2027	32%	
2028	24%		2028	35%	
2029	27%		2029	38%	
2030	30%		2030	41%	
2031	33%		2031	45%	
2032	36%		2032	49%	
2033	39%		2033	52%	
2034	42%		2034	55%	
2035	45%		2035	59%	
2036	53%		2036	63%	
2037	53%		2037	67%	
2038	57%		2038	71%	
2039	61%		2039	75%	
2040	65%		2040	79%	
2041	68%		2041	83%	
2042	71%		2042	87%	
2043	74%		2043	91%	
2044	77%		2044	95%	
2045	80%	2045 and thereafter		100%	
2046	84%				
2047	88%				
2048	92%				
2049	96%				
2050 and thereafter	100%				

**465** A Phase II Utility shall meet one percent of the RPS Program requirements in any given compliance  
**466** year with solar, wind, or anaerobic digestion resources of one megawatt or less located in the  
**467** Commonwealth, with not more than 3,000 kilowatts at any single location or at contiguous locations  
**468** owned by the same entity or affiliated entities and, to the extent that low-income qualifying projects are  
**469** available, then no less than 25 percent of such one percent shall be composed of low-income qualifying  
**470** projects.

**471** Beginning with the 2025 compliance year and thereafter, at least 75 percent of all RECs used by a  
**472** Phase II Utility in a compliance period shall come from RPS eligible resources located in the  
**473** Commonwealth.

**474** Any Phase I or Phase II Utility may apply renewable energy sales achieved or RECs acquired in  
**475** excess of the sales requirement for that RPS Program to the sales requirements for RPS Program  
**476** requirements in the year in which it was generated and the five calendar years after the renewable  
**477** energy was generated or the RECs were created. To the extent that a Phase I or Phase II Utility  
**478** procures RECs for RPS Program compliance from resources the utility does not own, the utility shall be  
**479** entitled to recover the costs of such certificates at its election pursuant to § 56-249.6 or subdivision A 5  
**480** d of § 56-585.1.

**481** D. Each Phase I or Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to procure  
**482** zero-carbon electricity generating capacity as set forth in this subsection and energy storage resources as  
**483** set forth in subsection E. To the extent that a Phase I or Phase II Utility constructs or acquires new  
**484** zero-carbon generating facilities or energy storage resources, the utility shall petition the Commission for  
**485** the recovery of the costs of such facilities, at the utility's election, either through its rates for generation  
**486** and distribution services or through a rate adjustment clause pursuant to subdivision A 6 of § 56-585.1.  
**487** All costs not sought for recovery through a rate adjustment clause pursuant to subdivision A 6 of  
**488** § 56-585.1 associated with generating facilities provided by sunlight or onshore or offshore wind are  
**489** also eligible to be applied by the utility as a customer credit reinvestment offset as provided in  
**490** subdivision A 8 of § 56-585.1. Costs associated with the purchase of energy, capacity, or environmental  
**491** attributes from facilities owned by the persons other than the utility required by this subsection shall be  
**492** recovered by the utility either through its rates for generation and distribution services or pursuant to §



56-249.6.

1. Each Phase I Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of 600 megawatts of generating capacity using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind.

a. By December 31, 2023, each Phase I Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of at least 200 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar or onshore wind facilities owned by persons other than the utility, with the remainder, in the aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by such Phase I Utility.

b. By December 31, 2027, each Phase I Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of at least 200 megawatts of additional generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar or onshore wind facilities owned by persons other than the utility, with the remainder, in the aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by such Phase I Utility.

c. By December 31, 2030, each Phase I Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of at least 200 megawatts of additional generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar or onshore wind facilities owned by persons other than the utility, with the remainder, in the aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by such Phase I Utility.

d. Nothing in this subdivision 1 shall prohibit such Phase I Utility from constructing, acquiring, or entering into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of more than 600 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, provided the utility receives approval from the Commission pursuant to §§ 56-580 and 56-585.1.

2. By December 31, 2035, each Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to (i) construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of 16,100 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, which shall include 1,100 megawatts of solar generation of a nameplate capacity not to exceed three megawatts per individual project and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar facilities owned by persons other than a utility, including utility affiliates and deregulated affiliates and (ii) pursuant to § 56-585.1:11, construct or purchase one or more offshore wind generation facilities located off the Commonwealth's Atlantic shoreline or in federal waters and interconnected directly into the Commonwealth with an aggregate capacity of up to 5,200 megawatts. At least 200 megawatts of the 16,100 megawatts shall be placed on previously developed project sites.

a. By December 31, 2024, each Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of at least 3,000 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar or onshore wind facilities owned by persons other than the utility, with the remainder, in the aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by such Phase II Utility.

b. By December 31, 2027, each Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of at least 3,000 megawatts of additional generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar or onshore wind facilities owned by persons other than the utility, with the remainder, in the aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by such Phase II Utility.

c. By December 31, 2030, each Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of at least 4,000 megawatts of additional generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar or onshore wind facilities owned by persons other than the utility, with the remainder, in the

554 aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by such Phase II Utility.

555 d. By December 31, 2035, each Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary  
556 approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and  
557 environmental attributes of at least 6,100 megawatts of additional generating capacity located in the  
558 Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating  
559 capacity procured shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from  
560 solar or onshore wind facilities owned by persons other than the utility, with the remainder, in the  
561 aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by such Phase II Utility.

562 e. Nothing in this subdivision 2 shall prohibit such Phase II Utility from constructing, acquiring, or  
563 entering into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of more than  
564 16,100 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from  
565 sunlight or onshore wind, provided the utility receives approval from the Commission pursuant to  
566 §§ 56-580 and 56-585.1.

567 3. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a utility from petitioning the Commission to construct or  
568 acquire zero-carbon electricity or from entering into contracts to procure the energy, capacity, and  
569 environmental attributes of zero-carbon electricity generating resources in excess of the requirements in  
570 subsection B. The Commission shall determine whether to approve such petitions on a stand-alone basis  
571 pursuant to §§ 56-580 and 56-585.1, provided that the Commission's review shall also consider whether  
572 the proposed generating capacity (i) is necessary to meet the utility's native load, (ii) is likely to lower  
573 customer fuel costs, (iii) will provide economic development opportunities in the Commonwealth, and  
574 (iv) serves a need that cannot be more affordably met with demand-side or energy storage resources.

575 Each Phase I and Phase II Utility shall, at least once every year, conduct a request for proposals for  
576 new solar and wind resources. Such requests shall quantify and describe the utility's need for energy,  
577 capacity, or renewable energy certificates. The requests for proposals shall be publicly announced and  
578 made available for public review on the utility's website at least 45 days prior to the closing of such  
579 request for proposals. The requests for proposals shall provide, at a minimum, the following information:  
580 (a) the size, type, and timing of resources for which the utility anticipates contracting; (b) any minimum  
581 thresholds that must be met by respondents; (c) major assumptions to be used by the utility in the bid  
582 evaluation process, including environmental emission standards; (d) detailed instructions for preparing  
583 bids so that bids can be evaluated on a consistent basis; (e) the preferred general location of additional  
584 capacity; and (f) specific information concerning the factors involved in determining the price and  
585 non-price criteria used for selecting winning bids. A utility may evaluate responses to requests for  
586 proposals based on any criteria that it deems reasonable but shall at a minimum consider the following  
587 in its selection process: (1) the status of a particular project's development; (2) the age of existing  
588 generation facilities; (3) the demonstrated financial viability of a project and the developer; (4) a  
589 developer's prior experience in the field; (5) the location and effect on the transmission grid of a  
590 generation facility; (6) benefits to the Commonwealth that are associated with particular projects,  
591 including regional economic development and the use of goods and services from Virginia businesses;  
592 and (7) the environmental impacts of particular resources, including impacts on air quality within the  
593 Commonwealth and the carbon intensity of the utility's generation portfolio.

594 4. In connection with the requirements of this subsection, each Phase I and Phase II Utility shall,  
595 commencing in 2020 and concluding in 2035, submit annually a plan and petition for approval for the  
596 development of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity. Such plan shall reflect, in the  
597 aggregate and over its duration, the requirements of subsection D concerning the allocation percentages  
598 for construction or purchase of such capacity. Such petition shall contain any request for approval to  
599 construct such facilities pursuant to subsection D of § 56-580 and a request for approval or update of a  
600 rate adjustment clause pursuant to subdivision A 6 of § 56-585.1 to recover the costs of such facilities.  
601 Such plan shall also include the utility's plan to meet the energy storage project targets of subsection E,  
602 including the goal of installing at least 10 percent of such energy storage projects behind the meter. In  
603 determining whether to approve the utility's plan and any associated petition requests, the Commission  
604 shall determine whether they are reasonable and prudent and shall give due consideration to (i) the RPS  
605 and carbon dioxide reduction requirements in this section, (ii) the promotion of new renewable  
606 generation and energy storage resources within the Commonwealth, and associated economic  
607 development, and (iii) fuel savings projected to be achieved by the plan. Notwithstanding any other  
608 provision of this title, the Commission's final order regarding any such petition and associated requests  
609 shall be entered by the Commission not more than six months after the date of the filing of such  
610 petition.

611 5. If, in any year, a Phase I or Phase II Utility is unable to meet the compliance obligation of the  
612 RPS Program requirements or if the cost of RECs necessary to comply with RPS Program requirements  
613 exceeds \$45 per megawatt hour, such supplier shall be obligated to make a deficiency payment equal to  
614 \$45 for each megawatt-hour shortfall for the year of noncompliance, except that the deficiency payment  
615 for any shortfall in procuring RECs for solar, wind, or anaerobic digesters located in the Commonwealth

shall be \$75 per megawatts hour for resources one megawatt and lower. The amount of any deficiency payment shall increase by one percent annually after 2021. A Phase I or Phase II Utility shall be entitled to recover the costs of such payments as a cost of compliance with the requirements of this subsection pursuant to subdivision A 5 d of § 56-585.1. All proceeds from the deficiency payments shall be deposited into an interest-bearing account administered by the Department of Energy. In administering this account, the Department of Energy shall manage the account as follows: (i) 50 percent of total revenue shall be directed to job training programs in historically economically disadvantaged communities; (ii) 16 percent of total revenue shall be directed to energy efficiency measures for public facilities; (iii) 30 percent of total revenue shall be directed to renewable energy programs located in historically economically disadvantaged communities; and (iv) four percent of total revenue shall be directed to administrative costs.

For any project constructed pursuant to this subsection or subsection E, a utility shall, subject to a competitive procurement process, procure equipment from a Virginia-based or United States-based manufacturer using materials or product components made in Virginia or the United States, if reasonably available and competitively priced.

E. To enhance reliability and performance of the utility's generation and distribution system, each Phase I and Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct or acquire new, utility-owned energy storage resources.

1. By December 31, 2035, each Phase I Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct or acquire 400 megawatts of energy storage capacity. Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit a Phase I Utility from constructing or acquiring more than 400 megawatts of energy storage, provided that the utility receives approval from the Commission pursuant to §§ 56-580 and 56-585.1.

2. By December 31, 2035, each Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct or acquire 2,700 megawatts of energy storage capacity. Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit a Phase II Utility from constructing or acquiring more than 2,700 megawatts of energy storage, provided that the utility receives approval from the Commission pursuant to §§ 56-580 and 56-585.1.

3. No single energy storage project shall exceed 500 megawatts in size, except that a Phase II Utility may procure a single energy storage project up to 800 megawatts.

4. All energy storage projects procured pursuant to this subsection shall meet the competitive procurement protocols established in subdivision D 3.

5. After July 1, 2020, at least 35 percent of the energy storage facilities placed into service shall be (i) purchased by the public utility from a party other than the public utility or (ii) owned by a party other than a public utility, with the capacity from such facilities sold to the public utility. By January 1, 2021, the Commission shall adopt regulations to achieve the deployment of energy storage for the Commonwealth required in subdivisions 1 and 2, including regulations that set interim targets and update existing utility planning and procurement rules. The regulations shall include programs and mechanisms to deploy energy storage, including competitive solicitations, behind-the-meter incentives, non-wires alternatives programs, and peak demand reduction programs.

F. All costs incurred by a Phase I or Phase II Utility related to compliance with the requirements of this section or pursuant to § 56-585.1:11, including (i) costs of generation facilities powered by sunlight or onshore or offshore wind, or energy storage facilities, that are constructed or acquired by a Phase I or Phase II Utility after July 1, 2020, (ii) costs of capacity, energy, or environmental attributes from generation facilities powered by sunlight or onshore or offshore wind, or falling water, or energy storage facilities purchased by the utility from persons other than the utility through agreements after July 1, 2020, and (iii) all other costs of compliance, including costs associated with the purchase of RECs associated with RPS Program requirements pursuant to this section shall be recovered from all retail customers in the service territory of a Phase I or Phase II Utility as a non-bypassable charge, irrespective of the generation supplier of such customer, except (a) as provided in subsection G for an accelerated renewable energy buyer ~~or~~, (b) *as provided in subsection H for energy-intensive trade-exposed industries*, or (c) as provided in subdivision C 3 of § 56-585.1:11, with respect to the costs of an offshore wind generation facility, for a PIPP eligible utility customer or an advanced clean energy buyer or qualifying large general service customer, as those terms are defined in § 56-585.1:11. If a Phase I or Phase II Utility serves customers in more than one jurisdiction, such utility shall recover all of the costs of compliance with the RPS Program requirements from its Virginia customers through the applicable cost recovery mechanism, and all associated energy, capacity, and environmental attributes shall be assigned to Virginia to the extent that such costs are requested but not recovered from any system customers outside the Commonwealth.

By September 1, 2020, the Commission shall direct the initiation of a proceeding for each Phase I and Phase II Utility to review and determine the amount of such costs, net of benefits, that should be allocated to retail customers within the utility's service territory which have elected to receive electric

677 supply service from a supplier of electric energy other than the utility, and shall direct that tariff  
678 provisions be implemented to recover those costs from such customers beginning no later than January  
679 1, 2021. Thereafter, such charges and tariff provisions shall be updated and trued up by the utility on an  
680 annual basis, subject to continuing review and approval by the Commission.

681 G. 1. An accelerated renewable energy buyer may contract with a Phase I or Phase II Utility, or a  
682 person other than a Phase I or Phase II Utility, to obtain (i) RECs from RPS eligible resources or (ii)  
683 bundled capacity, energy, and RECs from solar or wind generation resources located within the PJM  
684 region and initially placed in commercial operation after January 1, 2015, including any contract with a  
685 utility for such generation resources that does not allocate to or recover from any other customer of the  
686 utility the cost of such resources. Such an accelerated renewable energy buyer may offset all or a  
687 portion of its electric load for purposes of RPS compliance through such arrangements. An accelerated  
688 renewable energy buyer shall be exempt from the assignment of non-bypassable RPS compliance costs  
689 pursuant to subsection F, with the exception of the costs of an offshore wind generating facility pursuant  
690 to § 56-585.1:11, based on the amount of RECs obtained pursuant to this subsection in proportion to the  
691 customer's total electric energy consumption, on an annual basis. An accelerated renewable energy buyer  
692 obtaining RECs only shall not be exempt from costs related to procurement of new solar or onshore  
693 wind generation capacity, energy, or environmental attributes, or energy storage facilities, by the utility  
694 pursuant to subsections D and E, however, an accelerated renewable energy buyer that is a customer of  
695 a Phase II Utility and was subscribed, as of March 1, 2020, to a voluntary companion experimental  
696 tariff offering of the utility for the purchase of renewable attributes from renewable energy facilities that  
697 requires a renewable facilities agreement and the purchase of a minimum of 2,000 renewable attributes  
698 annually, shall be exempt from allocation of the net costs related to procurement of new solar or  
699 onshore wind generation capacity, energy, or environmental attributes, or energy storage facilities, by the  
700 utility pursuant to subsections D and E, based on the amount of RECs associated with the customer's  
701 renewable facilities agreements associated with such tariff offering as of that date in proportion to the  
702 customer's total electric energy consumption, on an annual basis. To the extent that an accelerated  
703 renewable energy buyer contracts for the capacity of new solar or wind generation resources pursuant to  
704 this subsection, the aggregate amount of such nameplate capacity shall be offset from the utility's  
705 procurement requirements pursuant to subsection D. All RECs associated with contracts entered into by  
706 an accelerated renewable energy buyer with the utility, or a person other than the utility, for an RPS  
707 Program shall not be credited to the utility's compliance with its RPS requirements, and the calculation  
708 of the utility's RPS Program requirements shall not include the electric load covered by customers  
709 certified as accelerated renewable energy buyers.

710 2. Each Phase I or Phase II Utility shall certify, and verify as necessary, to the Commission that the  
711 accelerated renewable energy buyer has satisfied the exemption requirements of this subsection for each  
712 year, or an accelerated renewable energy buyer may choose to certify satisfaction of this exemption by  
713 reporting to the Commission individually. The Commission may promulgate such rules and regulations  
714 as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection.

715 3. Provided that no incremental costs associated with any contract between a Phase I or Phase II  
716 Utility and an accelerated renewable energy buyer is allocated to or recovered from any other customer  
717 of the utility, any such contract with an accelerated renewable energy buyer that is a jurisdictional  
718 customer of the utility shall not be deemed a special rate or contract requiring Commission approval  
719 pursuant to § 56-235.2.

720 H. *Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other provision of law, the State*  
721 *Corporation Commission shall establish, implement, and manage an energy-intensive trade-exposed*  
722 *customer exemption program for EITE industries from the non-bypassable charges incurred by a Phase*  
723 *I or Phase II Utility related to compliance with the requirements of this section or pursuant to*  
724 *§ 56-585.1:11.*

725 I. No customer of a Phase II Utility with a peak demand in excess of 100 megawatts in 2019 that  
726 elected pursuant to subdivision A 3 of § 56-577 to purchase electric energy from a competitive service  
727 provider prior to April 1, 2019, shall be allocated any non-bypassable charges pursuant to subsection F  
728 for such period that the customer is not purchasing electric energy from the utility, and such customer's  
729 electric load shall not be included in the utility's RPS Program requirements. No customer of a Phase I  
730 Utility that elected pursuant to subdivision A 3 of § 56-577 to purchase electric energy from a  
731 competitive service provider prior to February 1, 2019, shall be allocated any non-bypassable charges  
732 pursuant to subsection F for such period that the customer is not purchasing electric energy from the  
733 utility, and such customer's electric load shall not be included in the utility's RPS Program requirements.

734 J. Nothing in this section shall apply to any entity organized under Chapter 9.1 (§ 56-231.15 et  
735 seq.).

736 K. The Commission shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the  
737 provisions of this section, including a requirement that participants verify whether the RPS Program  
738 requirements are met in accordance with this section.

739 2. That the State Corporation Commission shall establish, implement, and manage an  
740 energy-intensive trade-exposed customer exemption program for EITE industries, as defined in §  
741 56-576, as amended by this act, from the non-bypassable charges incurred by a Phase I or Phase  
742 II Utility related to compliance with the requirements of § 56-585.1:11 or 56-585.5 of the Code of  
743 Virginia, as amended by this act. The program shall consider the California Public Utility  
744 Commission's California Industry Assistance program and the American Clean Energy and  
745 Security Act of 2009 as guidance.

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