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HOUSE BILL NO. 2197

Offered January 13, 2025

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; renewable energy standard eligible sources; zero-carbon electricity generating nuclear facilities.

Patrons—Kilgore and Griffin

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 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, 2045, except for biomass-fired electric generating units that do not co-fire with coal, 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.

3. 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

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59 (RPS Program) that establishes annual goals for the sale of renewable energy *and zero-carbon electricity* to
 60 all retail customers in the utility's service territory, other than accelerated renewable energy buyers pursuant
 61 to subsection G, regardless of whether such customers purchase electric supply service from the utility or
 62 from suppliers other than the utility. To comply with the RPS Program, each Phase I and Phase II Utility shall
 63 procure and retire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) originating from renewable energy standard
 64 eligible sources (RPS eligible sources). For purposes of complying with the RPS Program from 2021 to 2024,
 65 a Phase I and Phase II Utility may use RECs from any renewable energy facility, as defined in § 56-576,
 66 provided that such facilities are located in the Commonwealth or are physically located within the PJM
 67 Interconnection, LLC (PJM) region. However, at no time during this period or thereafter may any Phase I or
 68 Phase II Utility use RECs from (i) renewable thermal energy, (ii) renewable thermal energy equivalent, or
 69 (iii) biomass-fired facilities that are outside the Commonwealth. From compliance year 2025 and all years
 70 after, each Phase I and Phase II Utility may only use RECs from RPS eligible sources for compliance with
 71 the RPS Program.

72 In order to qualify as RPS eligible sources, such sources must be (a) electric-generating resources that
 73 generate electric energy derived from solar or wind located in the Commonwealth or off the Commonwealth's
 74 Atlantic shoreline or in federal waters and interconnected directly into the Commonwealth or physically
 75 located within the PJM region; (b) falling water resources located in the Commonwealth or physically located
 76 within the PJM region that were in operation as of January 1, 2020, that are owned by a Phase I or Phase II
 77 Utility or for which a Phase I or Phase II Utility has entered into a contract prior to January 1, 2020, to
 78 purchase the energy, capacity, and renewable attributes of such falling water resources; (c) non-utility-owned
 79 resources from falling water that (1) are less than 65 megawatts, (2) began commercial operation after
 80 December 31, 1979, or (3) added incremental generation representing greater than 50 percent of the original
 81 nameplate capacity after December 31, 1979, provided that such resources are located in the Commonwealth
 82 or are physically located within the PJM region; (d) waste-to-energy or landfill gas-fired generating resources
 83 located in the Commonwealth and in operation as of January 1, 2020, provided that such resources do not use
 84 waste heat from fossil fuel combustion; (e) geothermal heating and cooling systems located in the
 85 Commonwealth; ~~or~~ (f) *zero-carbon electricity generating nuclear facilities located in the Commonwealth*; or
 86 (g) biomass-fired facilities in operation in the Commonwealth and in operation as of January 1, 2023, that (1)
 87 supply no more than 10 percent of their annual net electrical generation to the electric grid or no more than 15
 88 percent of their annual total useful energy to any entity other than the manufacturing facility to which the
 89 generating source is interconnected and are fueled by forest-product manufacturing residuals, including
 90 pulping liquor, bark, paper recycling residuals, biowastes, or biomass, as described in subdivisions A 1, 2,
 91 and 4 of § 10.1-1308.1, provided that biomass as described in subdivision A 1 of § 10.1-1308.1 results from
 92 harvesting in accordance with best management practices for the sustainable harvesting of biomass developed
 93 and enforced by the State Forester pursuant to § 10.1-1105, or (2) are owned by a Phase I or Phase II Utility,
 94 have less than 52 megawatts capacity, and are fueled by forest-product manufacturing residuals, biowastes, or
 95 biomass, as described in subdivisions A 1, 2, and 4 of § 10.1-1308.1, provided that biomass as described in
 96 subdivision A 1 of § 10.1-1308.1 results from harvesting in accordance with best management practices for
 97 the sustainable harvesting of biomass developed and enforced by the State Forester pursuant to § 10.1-1105.
 98 Regardless of any future maintenance, expansion, or refurbishment activities, the total amount of RECs that
 99 may be sold by any RPS eligible source using biomass in any year shall be no more than the number of
 100 megawatt hours of electricity produced by that facility in 2022; however, in no year may any RPS eligible
 101 source using biomass sell RECs in excess of the actual megawatt-hours of electricity generated by such
 102 facility that year. In order to comply with the RPS Program, each Phase I and Phase II Utility may use and
 103 retire the environmental attributes associated with any existing owned or contracted solar, wind, falling water,
 104 or biomass electric generating resources in operation, or proposed for operation, in the Commonwealth or
 105 solar, wind, or falling water resources physically located within the PJM region, with such resource
 106 qualifying as a Commonwealth-located resource for purposes of this subsection, as of January 1, 2020,
 107 provided that such renewable attributes are verified as RECs consistent with the PJM-EIS Generation
 108 Attribute Tracking System.

109 1. The RPS Program requirements shall be a percentage of the total electric energy sold in the previous
 110 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%

120	2028	24%	2028	35%
121	2029	27%	2029	38%
122	2030	30%	2030	41%
123	2031	33%	2031	45%
124	2032	36%	2032	49%
125	2033	39%	2033	52%
126	2034	42%	2034	55%
127	2035	45%	2035	59%
128	2036	53%	2036	63%
129	2037	53%	2037	67%
130	2038	57%	2038	71%
131	2039	61%	2039	75%
132	2040	65%	2040	79%
133	2041	68%	2041	83%
134	2042	71%	2042	87%
135	2043	74%	2043	91%
136	2044	77%	2044	95%
137	2045	80%	2045 and	100%
138			thereafter	
139	2046	84%		
140	2047	88%		
141	2048	92%		
142	2049	96%		
143	2050 and	100%		
144	thereafter			

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

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

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

159 5. Energy from a geothermal heating and cooling system is eligible for inclusion in meeting the
 160 requirements of the RPS Program. RECs from a geothermal heating and cooling system are created based on
 161 the amount of energy, converted from BTUs to kilowatt-hours, that is generated by a geothermal heating and
 162 cooling system for space heating and cooling or water heating. The Commission shall determine the form and
 163 manner in which such RECs are verified.

164 D. Each Phase I or Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to procure
 165 zero-carbon electricity generating capacity as set forth in this subsection and energy storage resources as set
 166 forth in subsection E. To the extent that a Phase I or Phase II Utility constructs or acquires new zero-carbon
 167 generating facilities or energy storage resources, the utility shall petition the Commission for the recovery of
 168 the costs of such facilities, at the utility's election, either through its rates for generation and distribution
 169 services or through a rate adjustment clause pursuant to subdivision A 6 of § 56-585.1. All costs not sought
 170 for recovery through a rate adjustment clause pursuant to subdivision A 6 of § 56-585.1 associated with
 171 generating facilities provided by sunlight or onshore or offshore wind are also eligible to be applied by the
 172 utility as a customer credit reinvestment offset as provided in subdivision A 8 of § 56-585.1. Costs associated
 173 with the purchase of energy, capacity, or environmental attributes from facilities owned by the persons other
 174 than the utility required by this subsection shall be recovered by the utility either through its rates for
 175 generation and distribution services or pursuant to § 56-249.6.

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

179 a. By December 31, 2023, each Phase I Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to

180 construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of
181 at least 200 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from
182 sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the purchase of
183 energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar or onshore wind facilities owned by persons other
184 than the utility, with the remainder, in the aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by such Phase I
185 Utility.

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

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

200 d. Nothing in this subdivision 1 shall prohibit such Phase I Utility from constructing, acquiring, or
201 entering into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of more than 600
202 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or
203 onshore wind, provided the utility receives approval from the Commission pursuant to §§ 56-580 and
204 56-585.1.

205 2. By December 31, 2035, each Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to
206 (i) construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes
207 of 16,100 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from
208 sunlight or onshore wind, which shall include 1,100 megawatts of solar generation of a nameplate capacity
209 not to exceed three megawatts per individual project and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured
210 shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar facilities owned by
211 persons other than a utility, including utility affiliates and deregulated affiliates and (ii) pursuant to §
212 56-585.1:11, construct or purchase one or more offshore wind generation facilities located off the
213 Commonwealth's Atlantic shoreline or in federal waters and interconnected directly into the Commonwealth
214 with an aggregate capacity of up to 5,200 megawatts. At least 200 megawatts of the 16,100 megawatts shall
215 be placed on previously developed project sites.

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

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

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

237 d. By December 31, 2035, each Phase II Utility shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to
238 construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of
239 at least 6,100 megawatts of additional generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy
240 derived from sunlight or onshore wind, and 35 percent of such generating capacity procured shall be from the

241 purchase of energy, capacity, and environmental attributes from solar or onshore wind facilities owned by
242 persons other than the utility, with the remainder, in the aggregate, being from construction or acquisition by
243 such Phase II Utility.

244 e. Nothing in this subdivision 2 shall prohibit such Phase II Utility from constructing, acquiring, or
245 entering into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of more than 16,100
246 megawatts of generating capacity located in the Commonwealth using energy derived from sunlight or
247 onshore wind, provided the utility receives approval from the Commission pursuant to §§ 56-580 and
248 56-585.1.

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

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

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

291 5. If, in any year, a Phase I or Phase II Utility is unable to meet the compliance obligation of the RPS
292 Program requirements or if the cost of RECs necessary to comply with RPS Program requirements exceeds
293 \$45 per megawatt hour, such supplier shall be obligated to make a deficiency payment equal to \$45 for each
294 megawatt-hour shortfall for the year of noncompliance, except that the deficiency payment for any shortfall
295 in procuring RECs for solar, wind, or anaerobic digesters located in the Commonwealth shall be \$75 per
296 megawatts hour for resources one megawatt and lower. The amount of any deficiency payment shall increase
297 by one percent annually after 2021. A Phase I or Phase II Utility shall be entitled to recover the costs of such
298 payments as a cost of compliance with the requirements of this subsection pursuant to subdivision A 5 d of §
299 56-585.1. All proceeds from the deficiency payments shall be deposited into an interest-bearing account
300 administered by the Department of Energy. In administering this account, the Department of Energy shall
301 manage the account as follows: (i) 50 percent of total revenue shall be directed to job training programs in

302 historically economically disadvantaged communities; (ii) 16 percent of total revenue shall be directed to
303 energy efficiency measures for public facilities; (iii) 30 percent of total revenue shall be directed to renewable
304 energy programs located in historically economically disadvantaged communities; and (iv) four percent of
305 total revenue shall be directed to administrative costs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

350 By September 1, 2020, the Commission shall direct the initiation of a proceeding for each Phase I and
351 Phase II Utility to review and determine the amount of such costs, net of benefits, that should be allocated to
352 retail customers within the utility's service territory which have elected to receive electric supply service from
353 a supplier of electric energy other than the utility, and shall direct that tariff provisions be implemented to
354 recover those costs from such customers beginning no later than January 1, 2021. Thereafter, such charges
355 and tariff provisions shall be updated and tried up by the utility on an annual basis, subject to continuing
356 review and approval by the Commission.

357 G. 1. An accelerated renewable energy buyer may contract with a Phase I or Phase II Utility, or a person
358 other than a Phase I or Phase II Utility, to obtain (i) RECs from RPS eligible resources or (ii) bundled
359 capacity, energy, and RECs from solar or wind generation resources located within the PJM region and
360 initially placed in commercial operation after January 1, 2015, including any contract with a utility for such
361 generation resources that does not allocate to or recover from any other customer of the utility the cost of
362 such resources. Such an accelerated renewable energy buyer may offset all or a portion of its electric load for

363 purposes of RPS compliance through such arrangements. An accelerated renewable energy buyer shall be
 364 exempt from the assignment of non-bypassable RPS compliance costs pursuant to subsection F, with the
 365 exception of the costs of an offshore wind generating facility pursuant to § 56-585.1:11, based on the amount
 366 of RECs obtained pursuant to this subsection in proportion to the customer's total electric energy
 367 consumption, on an annual basis. An accelerated renewable energy buyer obtaining RECs only shall not be
 368 exempt from costs related to procurement of new solar or onshore wind generation capacity, energy, or
 369 environmental attributes, or energy storage facilities, by the utility pursuant to subsections D and E, however,
 370 an accelerated renewable energy buyer that is a customer of a Phase II Utility and was subscribed, as of
 371 March 1, 2020, to a voluntary companion experimental tariff offering of the utility for the purchase of
 372 renewable attributes from renewable energy facilities that requires a renewable facilities agreement and the
 373 purchase of a minimum of 2,000 renewable attributes annually, shall be exempt from allocation of the net
 374 costs related to procurement of new solar or onshore wind generation capacity, energy, or environmental
 375 attributes, or energy storage facilities, by the utility pursuant to subsections D and E, based on the amount of
 376 RECs associated with the customer's renewable facilities agreements associated with such tariff offering as of
 377 that date in proportion to the customer's total electric energy consumption, on an annual basis. To the extent
 378 that an accelerated renewable energy buyer contracts for the capacity of new solar or wind generation
 379 resources pursuant to this subsection, the aggregate amount of such nameplate capacity shall be offset from
 380 the utility's procurement requirements pursuant to subsection D. All RECs associated with contracts entered
 381 into by an accelerated renewable energy buyer with the utility, or a person other than the utility, for an RPS
 382 Program shall not be credited to the utility's compliance with its RPS requirements, and the calculation of the
 383 utility's RPS Program requirements shall not include the electric load covered by customers certified as
 384 accelerated renewable energy buyers.

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

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

394 H. No customer of a Phase II Utility with a peak demand in excess of 100 megawatts in 2019 that elected
 395 pursuant to subdivision A 3 of § 56-577 to purchase electric energy from a competitive service provider prior
 396 to April 1, 2019, shall be allocated any non-bypassable charges pursuant to subsection F for such period that
 397 the customer is not purchasing electric energy from the utility, and such customer's electric load shall not be
 398 included in the utility's RPS Program requirements. No customer of a Phase I Utility that elected pursuant to
 399 subdivision A 3 of § 56-577 to purchase electric energy from a competitive service provider prior to February
 400 1, 2019, shall be allocated any non-bypassable charges pursuant to subsection F for such period that the
 401 customer is not purchasing electric energy from the utility, and such customer's electric load shall not be
 402 included in the utility's RPS Program requirements.

403 I. In any petition by a Phase I or Phase II Utility for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to
 404 construct and operate an electrical generating facility that generates electric energy derived from sunlight
 405 submitted pursuant to § 56-580, such utility shall demonstrate that the proposed facility was subject to
 406 competitive procurement or solicitation as set forth in subdivision D 3.

407 J. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, for the purposes of this section, any falling water
 408 generation facility located in the Commonwealth and commencing commercial operations prior to July 1,
 409 2024, shall be considered a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) eligible source.

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

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