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HOUSE BILL NO. 2323

Offered January 13, 2025

Prefiled January 8, 2025

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 23 of Title 56 a section numbered 56-596.5, relating to electric utilities; controlled environment agriculture facilities; time-of-use.

Patron—Lovejoy

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 23 of Title 56 a section numbered 56-596.5 as follows:

§ 56-596.5. Controlled environment agriculture; time of use.

A. For the purposes of this section, "controlled environment agriculture facility" means a facility utilizing agricultural production methods occurring in managed indoor facilities, including greenhouses and vertical farms, where environmental factors such as light, temperature, humidity, and carbon dioxide levels are optimized to enhance crop yield and quality.

B. Upon the request of a controlled environment agriculture facility located within the service territory of an electric utility, an electric utility shall advise such controlled environment agriculture facility of available time-of-use rate structures for such facility, provided that the facility has an expected or historical measured 30-minute average demand of at least 500 kilowatts. Upon such request, the electric utility shall provide detailed time-of-use rate information and an analysis of the best available rate for the controlled environment agriculture facility based on its expected electricity usage patterns.