

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish an Income-Qualified*
 3 *Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force; report.*

4 [S 777]

5 Approved

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

7 **1.** § 1. *The Department of Housing and Community Development (the Department) shall establish, in*
 8 *collaboration with the Department of Energy, and with assistance from the Department of Social Services,*
 9 *the Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force (the Task Force). The purpose of*
 10 *the Task Force shall be to determine barriers to access and enrollment in the current energy efficiency*
 11 *programs for income-qualified energy customers and to evaluate and develop a plan to address any*
 12 *necessary improvements regarding coordination among state and federal government agencies for utility*
 13 *services and resources to more effectively deliver energy-efficient housing, weatherization resources, and*
 14 *energy efficiency upgrades for income-qualified individuals and households in the Commonwealth,*
 15 *including small and large multifamily buildings, single-family dwellings, and manufactured homes. The*
 16 *Task Force shall provide a report of its recommendations to remedy current issues identified by the Task*
 17 *Force by September 30, 2026.*

18 § 2. *The Department shall select the members of the Task Force. In addition to one representative each*
 19 *from the Department, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Social Services, the Task Force shall*
 20 *include a representative from the staff of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation, a representative of*
 21 *the Division of Consumer Counsel of the Office of the Attorney General, and no less than 12 nonlegislative*
 22 *citizen members of the Commonwealth, including at least one clean energy advocate, a representative of the*
 23 *residential construction industry, a representative from a firm based in the Commonwealth and specializing*
 24 *in residential and commercial building energy performance, building diagnostics, or energy code*
 25 *compliance, an energy burden advocate, an income-qualified ratepayer advocate, a representative of a state*
 26 *institution of higher education, and no more than three utility providers that offer energy efficiency*
 27 *programs. The Task Force shall also include at least one income-qualified ratepayer located in the*
 28 *Commonwealth who has either received weatherization assistance or attempted to obtain weatherization*
 29 *assistance, at least one member representing an organization that provides home energy assessments and*
 30 *weatherization services from each region of the Commonwealth, at least one member representing an*
 31 *organization that provides affordable housing advocacy, and any other representative deemed appropriate by*
 32 *the Department. The members of the Task Force shall, by majority vote, select a chairperson and may select*
 33 *other officers or establish subcommittees as the members deem necessary.*

34 § 3. *As used in this act, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

35 *"Income-qualified individual or household" means a person or household in the Commonwealth whose*
 36 *income is no more than 60 percent of the Virginia median income or 200 percent of the federal poverty level,*
 37 *whichever is higher, or any individual or household that qualifies for an income-qualified assistance*
 38 *program.*

39 *"Manufactured housing" means homes, which may include mobile homes, that are built in the controlled*
 40 *environment of a manufacturing plant and are transported in one or more sections on a permanent chassis.*

41 *"Total cumulative energy savings" means energy savings attributable to specific energy efficiency*
 42 *upgrades or deferral repairs.*

43 *"Weatherization" means the process of protecting a home's interior from outdoor elements.*

44 *"Weatherization deferral repairs" means repairs funded by the Department's Weatherization Deferral*
 45 *Repair Program, or any other programs that provide weatherization assistance, that are necessary to make*
 46 *homes weatherization ready.*

47 *"Weatherization-ready repairs" means any repairs necessary to ensure that a home is eligible to receive*
 48 *efficiency and health and safety measures.*

49 *"Whole-home energy efficiency retrofit" means renovations or upgrades following a comprehensive*
 50 *energy assessment that are designed to increase housing quality, resident health, safety, resilience, and*
 51 *efficiency of a home while reducing energy costs, with such upgrades including but not limited to removing*
 52 *mold, lead, and asbestos, upgrading electrical panels, providing weatherization, improving energy efficiency,*
 53 *or conducting repairs necessary for electrification.*

54 § 4. *On or before September 30, 2026, the Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and*
 55 *recommendations to the Governor, the Chairs of the House Committee on Labor and Commerce and the*
 56 *Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Secretary of*

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57 *Natural and Historic Resources, the State Corporation Commission, and the Commission on Electric Utility*
58 *Regulation. The report shall (i) describe the federal, state, and utility funding resources available to support*
59 *the energy efficiency and weatherization needs of income-qualified individuals and households in the*
60 *Commonwealth; (ii) describe the barriers that should be addressed and the additional resources needed in*
61 *order to meet the existing energy efficiency and weatherization needs of all income-qualified individuals and*
62 *households; (iii) describe any barriers unique to the weatherization and energy efficiency needs of*
63 *individuals and households residing in multifamily buildings and manufactured homes, with due*
64 *consideration to the needs of residents of both small and large multifamily buildings; (iv) provide policy*
65 *recommendations to coordinate federal, state, and utility resources; and (v) submit a plan, including*
66 *estimated budget, prospective timeline, and potential funding sources, to ensure that weatherization-ready*
67 *repairs and whole-home energy efficiency retrofits are provided to all eligible income-qualified individuals*
68 *and households in the Commonwealth residing in multifamily buildings, single-family dwellings, and*
69 *manufactured homes by December 31, 2033. The report shall also provide recommendations to grow and*
70 *sustain the workforce needed to provide these services. The Task Force may prepare any supplements or*
71 *revisions to its report that it deems appropriate.*

72 § 5. *The report required by this act shall include, at a minimum, (i) an estimate and analysis of the total*
73 *number of income-qualified individuals and households by geography and housing type in the*
74 *Commonwealth; (ii) the number of income-qualified individuals and households that remain in need of*
75 *energy efficiency and weatherization improvements by geography and housing type in the Commonwealth;*
76 *(iii) the total number of income-qualified individuals and households who were made weatherization-ready*
77 *through pre-weatherization repairs; (iv) the number of households by geography and housing type who have*
78 *applied for weatherization and been deferred and the number of households that have applied for*
79 *weatherization but are still on a service provider's waitlist, including how long they have been on the*
80 *waitlist; (v) the number of income-qualified individuals or households that received energy efficiency*
81 *upgrades, weatherization assistance, or deferral repairs from government-sponsored or utility-sponsored*
82 *programs to date, and the corresponding bill and total cumulative energy savings achieved; (vi) any*
83 *implementation barriers, including workforce issues, preventing or inhibiting households from accessing and*
84 *enrolling in weatherization and energy efficiency programs; and (vii) any other information necessary to*
85 *inform policy decisions that seek to increase and improve the engagement of income-qualified households in*
86 *weatherization and any energy efficiency programs available to such households.*

87 § 6. *The report required by this act shall make publicly available information from the last five years that*
88 *identifies by census tract or zip code how many income-qualified households received energy efficiency*
89 *improvements, weatherization, or weatherization repairs from any program administered by the Department*
90 *or funded by an electric or gas utility, the cost of these improvements, and, if available, the amount or*
91 *estimated amount of energy saved.*

92 § 7. *In order to carry out the duties required by this act, the Task Force shall meet at least six times*
93 *between July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026. The meetings of the Task Force shall follow procedures for*
94 *public open meetings. A majority vote of the members at a meeting with a quorum shall be required for the*
95 *Task Force to approve the report or any supplements or revisions to such report.*