

**Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB777ER

Patron: Locke

Bill Title: Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force; established, definitions, report.

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to establish, in collaboration with the Department of Energy, and with assistance from the Department of Social Services, the Income-Qualified Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force (the Task Force) to determine barriers to access and enrollment in the current energy efficiency programs for income-qualified energy customers and to evaluate and develop a plan to address any necessary improvements regarding coordination among state and federal government agencies for utility services and resources to more effectively deliver energy-efficient housing, weatherization resources, and energy efficiency upgrades. The Task Force shall include a representative from the staff of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation, a representative of the Division of Consumer Counsel of the Office of the Attorney General, and no less than 12 nonlegislative citizen members of the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Task Force to meet at least six times annually between July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026, to submit a report of its findings and recommendations on or before September 30, 2026. The bill specifies that such report shall include policy recommendations and a plan to ensure that weatherization-ready repairs and whole-home energy efficiency retrofits are provided to all eligible income-qualified individuals and households in the Commonwealth residing in multifamily buildings, single-family dwellings, and manufactured homes by December 31, 2033.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: This bill involves the Departments of Housing and Community Development, Energy, and Social Services, as well as the Office of the Attorney General and the State Corporation Commission; however, no budget amendment is required.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that, as a stand-alone bill, associated costs can be absorbed. See Fiscal Analysis.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
DHCD		\$11,000	\$11,000			
TOTAL		\$11,000	\$11,000			

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) indicates that the requirements of this bill can be absorbed within current resources. However, the cumulative impact of this

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and other bills pertaining to stakeholder work groups and task forces may result in an unabsorbable fiscal impact. The bill requires a minimum of six meetings of the Task Force; however, DHCD anticipates that to complete the report described in the bill, the Task Force will likely convene at least six times throughout the period stated in the bill, creating an impact of \$22,000 across FY 2026 and FY 2027. DHCD's estimate is based on anticipated meetings, which may be in-person, requiring supplies, travel, and sustenance reimbursement. Existing agency staff is to provide administrative support.

Amendments to HB1600/SB800 adopted by the Senate include \$20,000 in general fund appropriation in FY 2026 for DHCD to carry out the requirements of this bill.

It is anticipated that any costs to the Department of Energy, the Department of Social Services, the Office of the Attorney General, and the State Corporation Commission can be absorbed.

Other: None.