

26104051D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 945**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to direct the Department of Energy to study geothermal energy and to direct the State Corporation*
5 *Commission to conduct a proceeding to establish geothermal energy requirements for high energy users.*

6 Patron—Clark

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 *1. § 1. The Department of Energy (the Department) shall conduct a study on geothermal electric generating*
10 *resources and geothermal heating and cooling systems, as such terms are defined in § 56-576 of the Code of*
11 *Virginia. In conducting its study, the Department shall evaluate the approximate amounts of electric*
12 *generation capacity available in the Commonwealth from geothermal electric generating resources and*
13 *geothermal heating and cooling systems. The Department may hire an independent consultant to assist with*
14 *completing such evaluation. The Department shall complete its study and submit a report of its findings and*
15 *recommendations to the State Corporation Commission no later than July 1, 2027.*16 *2. The State Corporation Commission (the Commission) shall initiate a proceeding by September 30,*
17 *2027, to establish requirements for high energy users to utilize standardized amounts of capacity from*
18 *geothermal electric generating resources and geothermal heating and cooling systems, as informed by the*
19 *study submitted by the Department of Energy under § 1. In conducting such proceeding, the Commission*
20 *shall consider feedback from the public, subject matter experts, and other stakeholders as necessary to*
21 *determine the standardized amounts of capacity from geothermal electric generating resources and*
22 *geothermal heating and cooling systems to be required for high energy users. For the purposes of this*
23 *section, "high energy user" means a retail electric service customer of a utility regulated by the Commission*
24 *with a consistent demand of 100 megawatts. The Commission shall have the authority to adjust the megawatt*
25 *size threshold for high energy users to which the requirements shall apply as determined by the Commission*
26 *to be appropriate to manage electric demand in the Commonwealth through the use of geothermal energy.*

INTRODUCED

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