

**Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB5

Patron: Locke

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

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development 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 for income-qualified individuals and households in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Task Force to meet at least six times between July 1, 2026, and September 30, 2027, and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations no later than September 30, 2027. 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, 2035.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: This bill involves the Departments of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Energy, and Social Services, as well as the Office of the Attorney General and the State Corporation Commission. No budget amendment is required. However, cumulative workload from this and similar bills may exceed existing agency capacity at DHCD.

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>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
DHCD		\$25,000				
TOTAL		\$25,000				

Fiscal Analysis: DHCD indicates that the requirements of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources. However, the agency notes that the cumulative impact of this bill and other legislation establishing stakeholder work groups or task forces may result in costs that are not fully absorbable. The bill requires a minimum of six meetings with 18 participants, at an estimated total cost of \$25,000 in FY 2027. This estimate assumes some meetings may be held in person and may involve costs for supplies, travel, and reimbursement

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for meals. Existing agency staff would provide administrative support. Any funding provided to support the activities required under this bill should be allocated to Item 102 of HB30/SB30, as introduced.

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

Other: This bill is similar to HB3.