

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact §§ 10.1-1330 and 10.1-1331 of the Code of Virginia, relating to clean energy*
 3 *and community flood preparedness; market-based trading program.*

4 [H 397]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That §§ 10.1-1330 and 10.1-1331 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 10.1-1330. Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness; report.**

9 A. ~~The provisions of this article shall be incorporated by the Department, without further action by the~~
 10 ~~Board, into the final regulation adopted by the Board on April 19, 2019, and published in the Virginia~~
 11 ~~Register on May 27, 2019. Such incorporation by the Department shall be exempt from the provisions of the~~
 12 ~~Virginia Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.)~~ *The Board shall establish and maintain a market-*
 13 *based trading regulation, consistent with the RGGI program, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from*
 14 *electricity generating units in the Commonwealth that shall be implemented and administered by the*
 15 *Department.*

16 B. ~~The Director is hereby authorized to~~ *shall* establish, implement, and manage an auction program to sell
 17 allowances into a market-based trading program consistent with the RGGI program and this article. The
 18 Director shall seek to sell 100 percent of all allowances issued each year through the allowance auction,
 19 unless the Department finds that doing so will have a negative impact on the value of allowances and result in
 20 a net loss of consumer benefit or is otherwise inconsistent with the RGGI program.

21 C. To the extent permitted by Article X, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia, the state treasury shall
 22 (i) hold the proceeds recovered from the allowance auction in an interest-bearing account with all interest
 23 directed to the account to carry out the purposes of this article and (ii) use the proceeds without further
 24 appropriation for the following purposes:

25 1. Forty-five percent of the revenue shall be credited to the account established pursuant to the Fund for
 26 the purpose of assisting localities and their residents affected by recurrent flooding, sea level rise, and
 27 flooding from severe weather events.

28 2. Fifty percent of the revenue shall be credited to an account administered by DHCD to support low-
 29 income energy efficiency programs, including programs for eligible housing developments. DHCD shall
 30 review and approve funding proposals for such energy efficiency programs, and DOE shall provide technical
 31 assistance upon request. Any sums remaining within the account administered by DHCD, including interest
 32 thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in such account to
 33 support low-income energy efficiency programs.

34 3. Three percent of the revenue shall be used to (i) cover reasonable administrative expenses of the
 35 Department in the administration of the revenue allocation, carbon dioxide emissions cap and trade program,
 36 and auction and (ii) carry out statewide climate change planning and mitigation activities.

37 4. Two percent of the revenue shall be used by DHCD, in partnership with DOE, to administer and
 38 implement low-income energy efficiency programs pursuant to subdivision 2.

39 D. The Department, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, DHCD, and DOE shall prepare a
 40 joint annual written report describing the Commonwealth's participation in RGGI, the annual reduction in
 41 greenhouse gas emissions, the revenues collected and deposited in the interest-bearing account maintained by
 42 the Department pursuant to this article, and a description of each way in which money was expended during
 43 the fiscal year. The report shall be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1, 2022, and
 44 annually thereafter.

45 **§ 10.1-1331. Energy conversion or energy tolling agreements.**

46 ~~If the Governor seeks to include the Commonwealth as a full participant in RGGI or another carbon~~
 47 ~~trading program with an open auction of allowances, or if the Department implements the final carbon trading~~
 48 ~~regulation as approved by the Board on April 19, 2019, (the Final Regulation) in order to establish a carbon~~
 49 ~~dioxide cap and trade program that limits and reduces the total carbon dioxide emissions released by certain~~
 50 ~~electric generation facilities and that complies with the RGGI model rule, then (i) the~~ *The definition of the*
 51 *term "life-of-the-unit contractual arrangement" under the Final Regulation regulation established by the*
 52 *Board pursuant to § 10.1-1330 shall include any energy conversion or energy tolling agreement that has a*
 53 *primary term of 20 years or more and pursuant to which the purchaser is required to deliver fuel to the CO2*
 54 *budget source or CO2 budget unit and is entitled to receive all of the nameplate capacity and associated*
 55 *energy generated by such source or unit for the entire contractual period and (ii) any purchaser under an*
 56 *energy conversion or energy tolling agreement shall be responsible for acquiring any CO2 allowances*

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57 required under the ~~Final Regulation~~ *regulation established by the Board pursuant to § 10.1-1330* in relation
58 to a CO2 budget source or CO2 budget unit that is subject to such agreement.
59 **2. That the provisions of this act are declaratory of existing law.**