

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Energy and the State Corporation Commission to conduct a*
 3 *comprehensive analysis of existing electric utility infrastructure; report.*

4 [S 267]

5 Approved

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

7 **1.** *§ 1. The Department of Energy (the Department), in consultation with the State Corporation Commission*
 8 *(the Commission) and each Phase I and Phase II Utility, as those terms are defined in subdivision A 1 of*
 9 *§ 56-585.1, shall conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing electric utility infrastructure to identify cost-*
 10 *saving opportunities that improve or preserve electric system reliability as an alternative or supplement to*
 11 *greenfield infrastructure projects. Such analysis shall include capacity uprates for zero-carbon electric*
 12 *generating resources and energy storage resources and transmission upgrades, including grid enhancing*
 13 *technologies and high-performance conductors. The Department and the Commission shall also analyze*
 14 *whether there are or could be any potential voluntary regulatory pathways by which large load customers*
 15 *could directly finance such alternatives as a condition of accelerated interconnection. The Department and*
 16 *the Commission shall complete their analyses and submit a report to the General Assembly no later than*
 17 *December 1, 2026. Notwithstanding any provision of subsection C of § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia,*
 18 *any additional generating capacity achieved through uprates at any existing falling water resources shall be*
 19 *considered a renewable energy standard eligible source for the purposes of § 56-585.5 of the Code of*
 20 *Virginia.*

21 *§ 2. To the extent that the Department of Energy determines that it requires outside independent*
 22 *consultants to assist in its evaluation required under this act, the Department shall conduct an open request*
 23 *for proposals for such independent consulting services. Upon the conclusion of such request for proposals,*
 24 *the Department shall publish the results and solicit voluntary funding from private entities to finance the*
 25 *independent consulting. If the Department receives sufficient voluntary financial contributions, it shall*
 26 *engage the necessary independent consulting services and conduct all analyses required under this act. The*
 27 *Department shall not conduct any such analyses unless it receives such sufficient voluntary financial*
 28 *contributions.*

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