

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact §§ 56-598 and 56-599 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utility*
 3 *integrated resource planning; energy storage resources.*

4 [H 893]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That §§ 56-598 and 56-599 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 56-598. Contents of integrated resource plans.**

9 An IRP should:

10 1. Integrate, over the planning period, the electric utility's forecast of demand for electric generation
 11 supply with recommended plans to meet that forecasted demand and assure adequate and sufficient reliability
 12 of service, including:13 a. Generating electricity from generation facilities that it currently operates or intends to construct or
 14 purchase;

15 b. Purchasing electricity from affiliates and third parties;

16 c. Reducing load growth and peak demand growth through cost-effective demand reduction programs; and
 17 d. Utilizing energy storage ~~facilities~~ *resources* to help meet forecasted demand and assure adequate and
 18 sufficient reliability of service, *including by assessing the use of energy storage resources through*
 19 *appropriate modeling that accounts for economic charge and discharge times and represents various*
 20 *economic scenarios;*21 2. Identify a portfolio of electric generation supply resources, including purchased and self-generated
 22 electric power, that:23 a. Consistent with § 56-585.1, is most likely to provide the electric generation supply needed to meet the
 24 forecasted demand, net of any reductions from demand side programs, so that the utility will continue to
 25 provide reliable service at reasonable prices over the long term; and26 b. Will consider low cost energy/capacity available from short-term or spot market transactions, consistent
 27 with a reasonable assessment of risk with respect to both price and generation supply availability over the
 28 term of the plan;29 3. Reflect a diversity of electric generation supply and cost-effective demand reduction contracts and
 30 services so as to reduce the risks associated with an over-reliance on any particular fuel or type of generation
 31 demand and supply resources and be consistent with the Commonwealth's energy policies as set forth in
 32 § 45.2-1706.1; and33 4. Include such additional information as the Commission requests pertaining to how the electric utility
 34 intends to meet its obligation to provide electric generation service for use by its retail customers over the
 35 planning period.36 **§ 56-599. Integrated resource plan required.**37 A. Each electric utility shall file an updated integrated resource plan by October 15, in each year
 38 immediately preceding the year the utility is subject to a biennial review of rates for generation and
 39 distribution services filing. A copy of each integrated resource plan shall be provided to the Chairman of the
 40 House Committee on Labor and Commerce, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor,
 41 and the Chairman of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation. After January 1, 2024, each electric
 42 utility not subject to an annual review shall file an annual update to the integrated resource plan by October
 43 15, in each year that the utility is subject to review of rates for generation and distribution services filing. All
 44 updated integrated resource plans shall comply with the provisions of any relevant order of the Commission
 45 establishing guidelines for the format and contents of updated and revised integrated resource plans. Each
 46 integrated resource plan shall consider options for maintaining and enhancing rate stability, energy
 47 independence, economic development including retention and expansion of energy-intensive industries, and
 48 service reliability.49 B. In preparing an integrated resource plan, each electric utility shall systematically evaluate and may
 50 propose:

51 1. Entering into short-term and long-term electric power purchase contracts;

52 2. Owning and operating electric power generation facilities;

53 3. Building new generation facilities;

54 4. Relying on purchases from the short term or spot markets;

55 5. Making investments in demand-side resources, including energy efficiency and demand-side
 56 management services, *and energy storage resources;*

57 6. Taking such other actions, as the Commission may approve, to diversify its generation supply portfolio
58 and ensure that the electric utility is able to implement an approved plan;

59 7. The methods by which the electric utility proposes to acquire the supply and demand resources
60 identified in its proposed integrated resource plan;

61 8. The effect of current and pending state and federal environmental regulations upon the continued
62 operation of existing electric generation facilities or options for construction of new electric generation
63 facilities;

64 9. The most cost effective means of complying with current and pending state and federal environmental
65 regulations, including compliance options to minimize effects on customer rates of such regulations;

66 10. Long-term electric distribution grid planning and proposed electric distribution grid transformation
67 projects, including a comprehensive assessment of the potential application of grid-enhancing technologies
68 and advanced conductors in a manner that ensures grid reliability and safeguards the cybersecurity and
69 physical security of the electric distribution grid. An electric utility that does not include grid-enhancing
70 technologies or advanced conductors in an integrated resource plan shall include a detailed explanation of
71 why such technologies or conductors are not included in such plan;

72 11. Developing a long-term plan for energy efficiency measures to accomplish policy goals of reduction
73 in customer bills, particularly for low-income, elderly, and disabled customers; reduction in emissions; and
74 reduction in carbon intensity; and

75 12. Developing a long-term plan to integrate new energy storage ~~facilities~~ *resources* into existing
76 generation and distribution assets to assist with grid transformation.

77 C. As part of preparing any integrated resource plan pursuant to this section, each utility shall conduct a
78 facility retirement study for owned facilities located in the Commonwealth that emit carbon dioxide as a
79 byproduct of combusting fuel and shall include the study results in its integrated resource plan. Upon filing
80 the integrated resource plan with the Commission, the utility shall contemporaneously disclose the study
81 results to each planning district commission, county board of supervisors, and city and town council where
82 such electric generation unit is located, the Department of Energy, the Department of Housing and
83 Community Development, the Virginia Employment Commission, and the Virginia Council on
84 Environmental Justice. The disclosure shall include (i) the driving factors of the decision to retire and (ii) the
85 anticipated retirement year of any electric generation unit included in the plan. Any electric generating
86 facility with an anticipated retirement date that meets the criteria of § 45.2-1701.1 shall comply with the
87 public disclosure requirements therein.

88 D. As part of preparing any integrated resource plan pursuant to this section, each utility shall conduct
89 outreach to engage the public in a stakeholder review process and provide opportunities for the public to
90 contribute information, input, and ideas on the utility's integrated resource plan, including the plan's
91 development methodology, modeling inputs, and assumptions, as well as the ability for the public to make
92 relevant inquiries, to the utility when formulating its integrated resource plan. Each utility shall report its
93 public outreach efforts to the Commission. The stakeholder review process shall include representatives from
94 multiple interest groups, including residential and industrial classes of ratepayers. Each utility shall, at the
95 time of the filing of its integrated resource plan, report on any stakeholder meetings that have occurred prior
96 to the filing date.

97 E. The Commission shall analyze and review an integrated resource plan and, after giving notice and
98 opportunity to be heard, the Commission shall make a determination within nine months after the date of
99 filing as to whether such an integrated resource plan is reasonable and is in the public interest.