

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 56-598 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; integrated*
 3 *resource plans; State Corporation Commission to investigate electric load forecasts.*

4 [H 892]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 56-598 of the Code of Virginia is 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 to help meet forecasted demand and assure adequate and sufficient
 18 reliability of service;19 2. Identify a portfolio of electric generation supply resources, including purchased and self-generated
 20 electric power, that:21 a. Consistent with § 56-585.1, is most likely to provide the electric generation supply needed to meet the
 22 forecasted demand, net of any reductions from demand side programs, so that the utility will continue to
 23 provide reliable service at reasonable prices over the long term; and24 b. Will consider low cost energy/capacity available from short-term or spot market transactions, consistent
 25 with a reasonable assessment of risk with respect to both price and generation supply availability over the
 26 term of the plan;27 3. Reflect a diversity of electric generation supply and cost-effective demand reduction contracts and
 28 services so as to reduce the risks associated with an over-reliance on any particular fuel or type of generation
 29 demand and supply resources and be consistent with the Commonwealth's energy policies as set forth in
 30 § 45.2-1706.1; ~~and~~31 4. *Provide information related to forecasting the utility's compliance with the renewable energy portfolio*
 32 *standard obligations under § 56-585.5 over the planning period. In forecasting compliance with such*
 33 *obligations, the utility shall not include the compliance requirements associated with (i) accelerated*
 34 *renewable energy buyers under contract with the utility as provided in subsection G of § 56-585.5 or (ii)*
 35 *customers purchasing electric energy from a licensed supplier under § 56-577; and*36 5. Include such additional information as the Commission requests pertaining to how the electric utility
 37 intends to meet its obligation to provide electric generation service for use by its retail customers over the
 38 planning period.39 **2. That no later than March 1, 2027, the State Corporation Commission (the Commission) shall initiate**
 40 **a single proceeding to investigate electric load forecasting practices by (i) each Phase I and Phase II**
 41 **Utility, as such terms are defined in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, including**
 42 **electric load forecasting services performed on behalf of an electric distribution cooperative organized**
 43 **under Article 1 (§ 56-231.15 et seq.) of Chapter 9.1 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia, and (ii) each**
 44 **electric distribution cooperative organized under Article 1 (§ 56-231.15 et seq.) of Chapter 9.1 of Title**
 45 **56 of the Code of Virginia. In conducting such proceeding, the Commission shall evaluate the**
 46 **methodologies, data, and assumptions used by the applicable utilities and cooperatives in developing**
 47 **electric load forecasts submitted to the regional transmission entity, PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM).**
 48 **In conducting such proceeding, the Commission shall (a) review the materials, data sets, and filings**
 49 **provided to PJM for load forecasting purposes by the applicable utilities and cooperatives; (b) evaluate**
 50 **the accuracy, consistency, and transparency of load forecasting methods and assumptions among the**
 51 **applicable utilities and cooperatives; and (c) determine whether such utilities are incorporating risk**
 52 **minimization terms into the load forecast, including financial commitments, minimum demand**
 53 **obligations, and other terms that may also be provisions of large load customer tariffs or contracts.**
 54 **The Commission may require the parties to provide anonymized data sets sufficient to permit a third**
 55 **party under contract with the Commission to replicate load forecast results and identify potentially**
 56 **duplicative load data, subject to any confidentiality protections deemed appropriate to protect**

57 consumer-specific information. If the Commission determines that customer-level or location-specific
58 information is necessary for purposes of the proceeding, such information shall be anonymized prior to
59 disclosure and shall only be disclosed to the Commission, its staff, or a third party under contract with
60 the Commission and subject to a protective order. In conducting such proceeding, the Commission
61 shall coordinate with PJM to confirm that the load forecasts provided by the applicable utilities and
62 cooperatives are incorporated in regional planning processes on a fair, accurate, and nonduplicative
63 basis.