

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 56-585.1:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electric utilities; pilot program*
 3 *for energy assistance and weatherization for certain individuals; recovery for certain costs; revised tariff;*
 4 *securitization of certain costs.*

5 [S 253]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That § 56-585.1:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**9 **§ 56-585.1:2. Pilot program for energy assistance and weatherization.**

10 Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 56-249.6 and 56-585.1:

11 Each Phase I and II Utility shall conduct a pilot program for energy assistance and weatherization for ~~low~~
 12 ~~income~~ *low-income*, elderly, and disabled individuals in their respective service territories in the
 13 Commonwealth. Each pilot program shall be funded by the utility and shall commence September 1, 2015.
 14 Each Phase I Utility shall continue such pilot program at no less than ~~the existing levels of funding as of July~~
 15 ~~1, 2018,~~ *\$1 million and no more than \$1.5 million* for each year that the utility provides such service. Each
 16 Phase II Utility shall continue such pilot program at no less than ~~\$13 \$156 million and no more than \$204~~
 17 ~~million for the time period beginning July 1, 2026, and ending July 1, 2038, with an annual minimum of \$13~~
 18 ~~million~~ for each year the utility is providing such service. The funding for the pilot programs established
 19 pursuant hereto for energy assistance and weatherization for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals in
 20 the service territory in the Commonwealth of each respective utility shall continue until ~~the earlier of~~
 21 ~~amendment or repeal of this section or~~ July 1, ~~2028~~ 2038. Each such utility shall report on the status of its
 22 pilot program, including the number of individuals served thereby *and the amount of annual expenditures for*
 23 *such program*, to the Governor, the State Corporation Commission, the ~~Chairman~~ *Chair* of the House
 24 Committee on Labor and Commerce ~~and, the Chairman Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce and~~
 25 ~~Labor, and the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation by July 1, 2016, and of each year thereafter.~~

26 **2. That notwithstanding any provision of subdivision A 6 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, a Phase**
 27 **II Utility, as defined in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, may recover costs**
 28 **associated with any petition for cost recovery made pursuant to clause (iv) of such subdivision A 6 that**
 29 **has been approved by the State Corporation Commission (the Commission) as of December 1, 2033,**
 30 **provided that, in connection with any such petition filed by the Phase II Utility between July 1, 2026,**
 31 **and March 1, 2033, the total costs for tap line conversion that are to be deemed reasonable, prudently**
 32 **incurred, and approved for recovery by the Commission pursuant to such petition shall not exceed an**
 33 **average cost per mile of tap lines converted, exclusive of financing costs, of \$900,000, and no such**
 34 **petition shall seek an annual incremental increase in the level of investments associated with such**
 35 **petition that exceeds four percent of the Phase II Utility's distribution rate base, as such rate base was**
 36 **determined for the most recently ended 12-month test period in the Phase II Utility's most recently**
 37 **concluded biennial review proceeding prior to the filing of such petition.**

38 **3. That a Phase II Utility, as defined in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, shall**
 39 **propose to the State Corporation Commission (the Commission), in any proceeding to determine rates**
 40 **for generation and distribution services pursuant to subdivision A 3 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of**
 41 **Virginia (biennial review proceeding) commencing after January 1, 2027, and before July 1, 2033, that**
 42 **(i) all net costs of electric generating capacity incurred by the Phase II Utility on a total system basis as**
 43 **a result of capacity procurement requirements imposed by the regional transmission entity of which**
 44 **the Phase II Utility is a member shall be directly assigned to the Phase II Utility's customer class**
 45 **approved to serve customers with a contracted or measured electric demand of 25 megawatts or**
 46 **greater and an anticipated or measured average annual electric load factor of 75 percent or greater,**
 47 **and shall not be assigned to any other customer class of the Phase II Utility, with such costs applying as**
 48 **a non-bypassable charge to any such customer that has received electric supply service from the Phase**
 49 **II Utility at any time on or after January 1, 2026, other than a customer making an election pursuant**
 50 **to the fourth enactment of this act to not be served under the Phase II Utility's principal rate schedule**
 51 **approved to serve customers with a contracted or measured electric demand of 25 megawatts or**
 52 **greater and an anticipated or measured average annual electric load factor of 75 percent or greater,**
 53 **and (ii) all financing costs related to distribution infrastructure investments required to interconnect**
 54 **new customers with a contracted or measured electric demand of 25 megawatts or greater and an**
 55 **anticipated or measured average annual electric load factor of 75 percent or greater that are incurred**
 56 **by the Phase II Utility prior to the energization of such facilities shall be directly assigned to the Phase**

57 II Utility's customer class approved to serve such customers, and shall not be assigned to any other
58 customer class of the Phase II Utility. In evaluating proposals by the Phase II Utility pursuant to this
59 enactment, as well as other customer class cost allocation issues and methodologies in future biennial
60 review proceedings, the Commission shall consider the goal of mitigating any rate increases to the
61 broad customer base of the Phase II Utility that are associated with connecting and serving high-load,
62 high load factor customers, in addition to any other factors the Commission determines to be in the
63 public interest and may, in its discretion, approve or deny the Phase II Utility's proposal in whole or in
64 part.

65 4. That any customer of a Phase II Utility, as defined in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of
66 Virginia, that, as of January 1, 2026, maintained a full-time equivalent employment workforce engaged
67 in manufacturing, industrial, or consumer goods warehousing and distribution activities other than
68 data storage, of at least 200 individuals at facilities located within the Phase II Utility's service territory
69 at a single or contiguous customer account location that is subject to migration to a principal rate
70 schedule of the Phase II Utility applicable to customers with a contracted or measured electric demand
71 of 25 megawatts or greater and an anticipated or measured average annual electric load factor of 75
72 percent or greater as of January 1, 2027, may, by providing notice to the Phase II Utility on or before
73 July 1, 2026, elect to remain on its existing default rate schedule or any applicable voluntary rate
74 schedule. Any such election shall be on a one-time basis and shall not be revocable at any time prior to
75 December 31, 2033, after which time an electing customer may continue to remain on its existing
76 default rate schedule or take service under any other rate schedule for which such customer qualifies.
77 A Phase II Utility shall also permit a customer executing a new electric service agreement on or after
78 July 1, 2026, or a customer that executed a new electric service agreement between July 1, 2024 and
79 July 1, 2026, to serve facilities that are under construction as of July 1, 2026, that has a contracted or
80 measured electric demand of 25 megawatts or greater and an anticipated or measured average annual
81 electric load factor of 75 percent or greater and meets the manufacturing, industrial, or consumer
82 goods warehousing and distribution employment criteria of this enactment at the time of any election
83 to elect to take service on any rate schedule for which such customer qualifies based on its contracted
84 or measured electric demand, regardless of anticipated or measured annual electric load factor.

85 5. That a Phase II Utility, as defined in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, in
86 connection with its first proceeding to determine rates for generation and distribution services
87 pursuant to subdivision A 3 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia (biennial review proceeding)
88 commencing after July 1, 2026, shall include in its petition to the State Corporation Commission (the
89 Commission) a proposal to revise its tariff for supplementary, maintenance, or standby service for
90 customers with power plants, effective as of January 1, 2028. The Commission shall only approve such
91 proposal if it determines that such tariff will not adversely affect other retail customers or the utility in
92 a manner contrary to the public interest, and any revised tariff terms shall include protections against
93 stranded cost risks to the utility customer base, including minimum demand charge provisions for
94 generation, transmission, and distribution services that are no less stringent than any such provisions
95 applicable to high-load, high load factor customers that were approved by the Commission in the
96 utility's most recently concluded biennial review proceeding.

97 6. That notwithstanding any provision of § 56-249.6:2 of the Code of Virginia, a Phase II Utility, as
98 defined in subdivision A 1 of § 56-585.1 of the Code of Virginia, may file a petition for a financing
99 order regarding deferred fuel costs as provided in § 56-249.6:2 of the Code of Virginia on or before
100 July 15, 2026, and that the provisions of the fourth enactment of Chapter 757 and the fourth enactment
101 of Chapter 775 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023 shall be applicable to any such petition,
102 notwithstanding any time limitations established in such enactment. If a Phase II Utility petitions the
103 State Corporation Commission (the Commission) for a financing order pursuant to this enactment, the
104 Commission, following notice and an opportunity for hearing, shall issue either (i) a financing order or
105 (ii) an order rejecting such petition. The Commission shall issue its final order upon any such petition
106 filed between May 1, 2026, and July 15, 2026, within four months after the date of such filing.

107 7. That this act shall be referred to as the Fair and Affordable Electric Rates and Reliability Act.