



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

May 10, 2024

Scott Moore, Legislative Finance Manager

S.253 (Act 151) – An act relating to building energy codes

As Enacted

Bill Summary

This bill proposes to establish the Building Energy Code Working Group. It would also allow the residential and commercial building energy codes to be updated at the discretion of the Commissioner of Public Service.

Fiscal Impact

This bill creates a working group with an estimated cost of \$12,000 to the General Fund in fiscal year 2025. It does not include an appropriation; the cost would be absorbed by the General Assembly's fiscal year 2025 budget.

Background and Details

The following sections have a fiscal impact.

Section 2

Section 2 would establish the Building Energy Code Working Group to recommend strategies for increasing compliance with the Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) and Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES).

The Group would be made up of one member of the House of Representatives, one member of the Senate, the Commissioner of Public Service or designee, the Director of Fire Safety or designee, a representative of Efficiency Vermont, a representative of American Institute of Architects–Vermont, a representative of the Vermont Builders and Remodelers Association, a representative of the Burlington Electric Department, a representative of Vermont Gas Systems, a representative of the Association of General Contractors of Vermont, a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a representative from a regional planning commission, a representative from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, a representative of the Office of Professional Regulation, and a representative from the Vermont Association of Realtors.

On or before November 15, 2025, the Working Group would submit a written report with its findings and recommendations for legislative action to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Environment and Energy with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

Legislative members of the Group would be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than eight meetings in fiscal year 2025. Other members who are not otherwise compensated by their employer would be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than eight meetings in fiscal year 2025.

The bill allows for the Group to hire a third-party consultant to assist its work but includes no appropriation for this purpose.