

NO. 168. AN ACT RELATING TO ESTABLISHING GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOALS AND A PLAN FOR MEETING THOSE GOALS.

(S.259)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 578 is added to read:

§ 578. GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOALS

(a) General goal of greenhouse gas reduction. It is the goal of the state to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from within the geographical boundaries of the state and those emissions outside the boundaries of the state that are caused by the use of energy in Vermont in order to make an appropriate contribution to achieving the regional goals of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from the 1990 baseline by:

(1) 25 percent by January 1, 2012;

(2) 50 percent by January 1, 2028;

(3) if practicable using reasonable efforts, 75 percent by January 1, 2050.

(b) Climate change action plan. The secretary will coordinate with the Governor's commission on climate change established by executive order and will consult with any interested members of Vermont's business, agricultural, labor, and environmental communities in developing a climate change action plan. The secretary shall notify each member of the general assembly of the development of this plan and of the opportunity for public comment. This plan shall be developed in a manner that implements state energy policy, as

specified in 30 V.S.A. § 202a. Not later than September 1, 2007, the secretary shall present this plan to the committees of the general assembly having jurisdiction over matters relating to the environment, agriculture, energy, transportation, commerce, and public health.

(c) Implementation of climate change action plan. In order to facilitate the state's compliance with the goals established in this section, all state agencies shall consider, whenever practicable, any increase or decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in their decision-making procedures with respect to the purchase and use of equipment and goods; the siting, construction, and maintenance of buildings; the assignment of personnel; and the planning, design and operation of programs, services and infrastructure.

Approved: May 22, 2006