

HOUSE BILL NO. 2386

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations

on February 15, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate O'Quinn)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 17 of Title 45.2 an article numbered 9, consisting of a section numbered 45.2-1734, relating to Virginia Power Innovation Fund and Program; created.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 17 of Title 45.2 an article numbered 9, consisting of a section numbered 45.2-1734, as follows:**

Article 9.

Virginia Power Innovation Fund and Program.

**§ 45.2-1734. Virginia Power Innovation Fund and Program.**

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia Power Innovation Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund," that shall be administered by the Department. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All amounts appropriated and such other funds as may be made available to the fund from any other source, public or private, shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of research and development of innovative energy technologies, including hydrogen, carbon capture and utilization, and energy storage. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Director.

26           B. The Virginia Power Innovation Program is hereby established for the purpose of (i) establishing  
27 a Virginia energy innovation hub from such funds as may be available from the Fund and (ii) awarding  
28 grants on a competitive basis from such funds as may be available from the Fund to support energy  
29 innovation. The Program shall be administered by the Department. In administering the Program, the  
30 Department shall establish and publish guidelines and criteria for disbursement of funds pursuant to clause  
31 (i), including providing grants to support higher education research on advanced energy technologies, to  
32 fund energy workforce development programming, and to assist with site selection for future innovative  
33 energy projects in Virginia. In administering the Program, the Department shall, in collaboration with the  
34 Secretary of Commerce and Trade, establish and publish guidelines and criteria for disbursement of funds  
35 pursuant to clause (ii). The Department shall oversee each grant awarded through the Program and ensure  
36 thorough reporting on each such grant.

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