



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Executive Department*

### **Executive Directive 3 (2015)**

#### **STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL 1349**

##### **Importance of the Initiative**

Senate Bill 1349 has been one of the most extensively debated measures approved by the 2015 General Assembly. Included in this legislation are significant policy changes in some key areas such as renewable energy, low-income energy assistance and energy efficiency, consistent with many of the recommendations laid out in the 2014 Virginia Energy Plan.

As stated in the Energy Plan, Virginia must take decisive action to become a leader in innovative energy generation and utilization. It is incumbent upon my administration to ensure that this legislation is implemented as efficiently and effectively as possible and in a manner that will grow, strengthen and diversify the Virginia economy. Therefore, I hereby direct the following actions to be taken by the following agencies:

1. The Department of Social Services shall work with investor-owned utilities affected by the provisions of Senate Bill 1349 to ensure that the utility-funded energy assistance programs required by the legislation are implemented to provide the most beneficial approach for low-income, disabled, and elderly Virginians to afford to pay their energy bills.
2. The Department of Housing and Community Development shall work with investor-owned utilities affected by the provisions of Senate Bill 1349 to ensure that the utility-funded energy efficiency programs required by the legislation are implemented to provide the most beneficial approach for low income, disabled, and elderly Virginians to conserve energy and lower their energy bills.
3. The Departments of General Services and Mines, Minerals and Energy shall work with investor-owned utilities to deploy, as quickly as possible, a minimum of 400 megawatts of solar energy in Virginia by 2020. Both agencies shall work with utilities, private developers, and other stakeholders to site additional solar in the Commonwealth as soon as practicable. Additionally, The Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority, once constituted, shall work

to facilitate greater deployment of solar energy generating systems in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the 2014 Virginia Energy Plan.

4. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy shall give high priority to the development of a solar industry in Virginia, including but not limited to identifying opportunities for partnerships with state and local agencies, utilities, and other stakeholders to create solar-related jobs and develop a robust renewable energy workforce in the Commonwealth.
5. The Secretary of Commerce and Trade shall annually apprise me of the progress of this directive in fulfilling the policy changes stated in Senate Bill 1349 and provide recommendations if additional measures need to be taken to ensure that the full potential of these policies are achieved in the most efficient and effective manner possible.



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Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Attest:

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Levar M. Stoney, Secretary of the Commonwealth