



HB1783 (O'Quinn/Byron) – ENERGY DIVERSITY ACT

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

- Ensures that all Virginians have access to affordable, reliable, secure, and sustainable natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, propane, and renewable propane services.
- Restricts any public entity from prohibiting residential, commercial, or industrial consumers from acquiring or using natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, propane or renewable propane services.

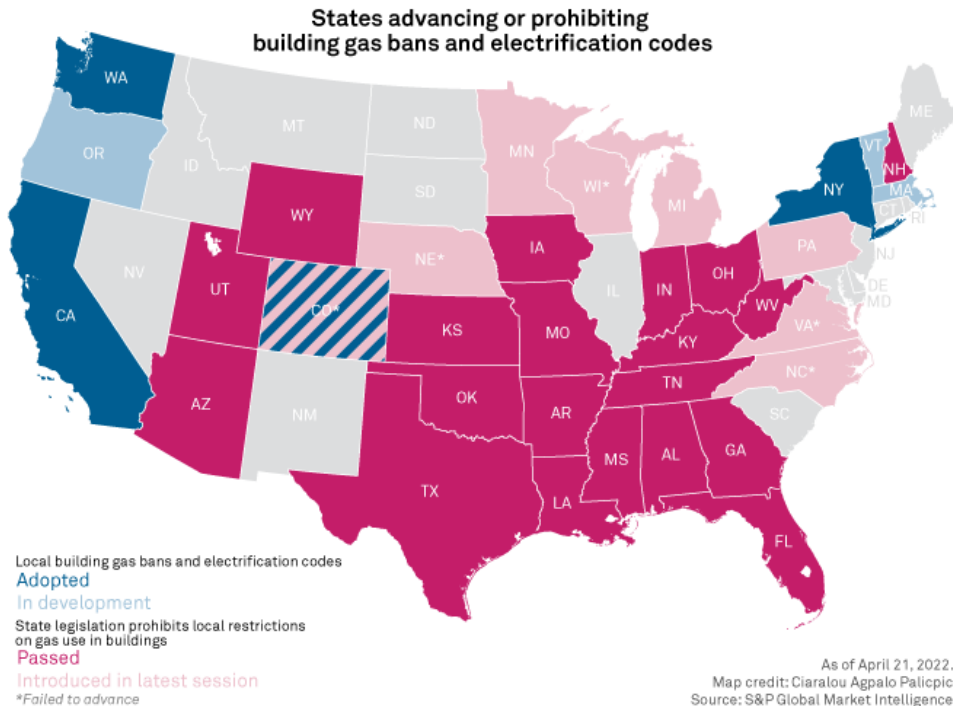
WHY IS IT NECESSARY?

- Clean fuels are essential to low-carbon and low-cost home heating, industrial processes, restaurant food preparation, commercial businesses, and electric grid stability.
- Natural gas is the essential raw material for manufacturing fertilizer and nylon.
- The cost to retrofit a single-family home to electric-only could cost [\\$26,000](#).
- Clarifies that state and local government agencies may not restrict access to or the use of these fuels/raw materials – it brings Virginia into the [national mainstream](#).
- Current Virginia statute removes natural gas from the Virginia market by **2050**.

IS THERE A PRECEDENT?

- [20 states have passed legislation prohibiting gas bans](#) including nearly every southern state.

COALITION PARTNERS: VIRGINIA ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; VIRGINIA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION; VIRGINIA OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION; VIRGINIA POULTRY FEDERATION; VIRGINIA PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION; VIRGINIA RESTAURANT LODGING & TRAVEL ASSOCIATION; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING HEATING COOLING CONTRACTORS; VIRGINIA APARTMENTS MANAGERS ASSOCIATION; THOMAS JEFFERSON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY; VIRGINIA ENERGY CONSUMER TRUST; VIRGINIA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION



WILL THIS CHOICE IMPROVE VIRGINIA'S COMPETITIVENESS OR LOWER THE COST OF LIVING?

- Access to diverse fuels, raw materials, and sources of energy help consumers.
- Virginia ranks #19 (down from #13 last year) in the US for the Average Retail Natural Gas Price for Industrial Customers, \$ per thousand cubic feet.
- Virginia [ranks #16 best in the US](#) for energy related CO2 metric tons per capita emissions.
- Average Particular Matter (PM 2.5) exposure in Virginia for 2017-2019 was 6.9 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter – lower than the United States average (8.3) and ranks #15 best in the US.
- Virginia's 2019 per capital energy use rate is lower than the national average of 305 million BTUs and ranks #20 best in the US.

COALITION PARTNERS: CSX, NORFOLK SOUTHERN; PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION; —NATIONAL & VIRGINIA; THOMAS JEFFERSON INSTITUTE; VA ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; VA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; VA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; VA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION; VA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION; VA OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION; VA POULTRY FEDERATION; VA PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION; VA RESTAURANT LODGING & TRAVEL ASSOCIATION;

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