



## House Bill 5004

### AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND ASSOCIATED JOB SECTORS.

#### Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

#### Environment Committee

March 3, 2025

Senator Lopes, Representative Parker, Senator Harding, Representative Callahan, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on **House Bill 5004: An Act Concerning the Protection of the Environment and the Development of Renewable Energy Sources and Associated Job Sectors**.

**Section 16** of HB 5004 requires DAS to establish a process to consider energy efficiency and other sustainability goals when making a decision to remodel, alter, repair, construct, or enlarge any state real asset. We are happy to report that this work is already underway.

Pursuant to Executive Order 21-3, section 3d, DAS and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) issued a nationwide RFP in 2023 to find a firm to conduct a decarbonization study, and Arup was ultimately selected to do the work.

The study will consist of 4 phases:

- **Phase 1 – Discovery:** Assess the current state of energy management across all executive branch state agencies.
- **Phase 2 – Baseline Development:** Collect all necessary data; build out and complete the database tool.
- **Phase 3 – Identification and Screening:** Identify decarbonization opportunities within the portfolio of buildings on an agency-by-agency basis. Screen and assess the identified opportunities based on their potential impact and feasibility.
- **Phase 4 – Assessment and Completion:** Provide recommendations and justifications for specific projects based on the assessments made in Phase 3.

The proposed bill requires DAS to submit a decarbonization plan and budget to the legislature by January 1, 2026. Unfortunately, the Arup study that is already underway will not be completed within that time frame. Phase 1, as described above, was completed in the summer of 2024 and consisted of Arup setting up workshops with each executive branch agency to collect building asset and energy information. Phases 2-4 are set to begin in 2025 and will take between 18 months to 2 years to complete. For this reason, we request that the submission date for the decarbonization study that is included in the proposal be changed

from January 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027, to ensure enough time for the study to conclude and the analysis to be done.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and share our thoughts with the Committee.