



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

***Raised Bill No. 5751***

LCO No. 1809

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:

(ET)

***An Act Concerning The Use Of Consultants By The Office Of Consumer Counsel.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (a) of section 16-18a of the general statutes, as amended  
2 by section 7 of public act 99-286, is repealed and the following is  
3 substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (a) In the performance of their duties the Department of Public  
5 Utility Control and the Office of Consumer Counsel may retain  
6 consultants to assist their staff in proceedings before the department,  
7 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the Federal  
8 Communications Commission or in proceedings appealing a decision  
9 of the department, by providing expertise in areas in which staff  
10 expertise does not currently exist or when necessary to supplement  
11 existing staff expertise. In any case where the department or Office of  
12 Consumer Counsel determines that the services of a consultant are  
13 necessary or desirable, the department shall (1) allow opportunity for  
14 the parties and participants to the proceeding for which the services of  
15 a consultant are being considered to comment regarding the necessity  
16 or desirability of such services, (2) upon the request of a party or

17 participant to the proceeding for which the services of a consultant are  
18 being considered, hold a hearing, and (3) limit the reasonable and  
19 proper expenses for such services to not more than two hundred  
20 thousand dollars for each agency per proceeding involving a public  
21 service company, telecommunications company, electric supplier or  
22 person seeking certification to provide telecommunications services  
23 pursuant to chapter 283, with more than fifteen thousand customers,  
24 and to not more than fifty thousand dollars for each agency per  
25 proceeding involving such a company, electric supplier or person with  
26 less than fifteen thousand customers, provided the department or the  
27 Office of Consumer Counsel may exceed such limits for good cause. In  
28 the case of multiple proceedings conducted to implement the  
29 provisions of this section and sections 16-1, 16-19, 16-19e, 16-22,  
30 16-247a to 16-247c, inclusive, 16-247e to 16-247i, inclusive, 16-247k and  
31 subsection (e) of 16-331, the department or the Office of Consumer  
32 Counsel may exceed such limits, but the total amount for all such  
33 proceedings shall not exceed the aggregate amount which would be  
34 available pursuant to this section. All reasonable and proper expenses,  
35 as defined in subdivision (3) of this section, shall be borne by the  
36 affected company, electric supplier or person and shall be paid by such  
37 company, electric supplier or person at such times and in such manner  
38 as the department or the Office of Consumer Counsel directs. All  
39 reasonable and proper costs and expenses, as defined in subdivision  
40 (3) of this section, shall be recognized by the department for all  
41 purposes as proper business expenses of the affected company, electric  
42 supplier or person. The providers of consultant services shall be  
43 selected by the department or the Office of Consumer Counsel and  
44 shall submit written findings and recommendations to the department  
45 or the Office of Consumer Counsel, as the case may be, which shall be  
46 made part of the public record.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To authorize the Office of Consumer Control to retain consultants to assist staff in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission, the Federal Communications Commission and in proceedings appealing decisions of the department.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*