



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5751

February Session, 2000

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2 by section 7 of public act 99-286, is repealed and the following is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, the Securities and
8 Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the United
9 States Department of Justice or the Federal Communications
10 Commission or in proceedings appealing a decision of the department,
11 by providing expertise in areas in which staff expertise does not
12 currently exist or when necessary to supplement existing staff
13 expertise. In any case where the department or Office of Consumer
14 Counsel determines that the services of a consultant are necessary or
15 desirable, the department shall (1) allow opportunity for the parties
16 and participants to the proceeding for which the services of a
17 consultant are being considered to comment regarding the necessity or
18 desirability of such services, (2) upon the request of a party or
19 participant to the proceeding for which the services of a consultant are
20 being considered, hold a hearing, and (3) limit the reasonable and

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

ET Committee Vote: Yea 16 Nay 0 JFS C/R GAE