



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 403

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6882

House of Representatives, April 23, 2001

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. KNOPP of the 137th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENERGY AND WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE ADVISORY BOARD.

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

1 (NEW) There is established an Energy and Weatherization
2 Assistance Advisory Board that shall advise the Secretary of the Office
3 of Policy and Management, the Commissioner of Social Services and
4 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
5 cognizance of matters relating to energy and human services,
6 regarding the development and implementation of the state's energy
7 assistance plan pursuant to section 16a-41a of the general statutes and
8 the weatherization plan pursuant to section 17b-801 of the general
9 statutes. Such board shall participate in the development of any
10 reports or plans required of or prepared by the Office of Policy and
11 Management or the Commissioner of Social Services regarding
12 administration of energy and weatherization assistance and shall
13 monitor administration of such plans. Meetings of such board shall be

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: Office of Policy and Management,
Department of Social Services

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

The bill conforms statute to current practice and does not result in a fiscal impact. It establishes an advisory board to participate in the development of energy assistance and weatherization plans by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) or the Department of Social Services (DSS). The bill requires the board to monitor the execution of those plans by these agencies. It also requires the board to schedule monthly meetings, which staff from OPM and DSS must attend. Currently, the Governor’s Energy Assistance Advisory Committee meets regularly to monitor the DSS energy assistance program and to prepare plans for the Low Income Heating Assistance Program. Both agencies already devote staff resources to conduct these meetings and prepare reports and plans. It is anticipated that the new advisory board would replace the existing one.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6882

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENERGY AND WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE ADVISORY BOARD.

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes an Energy and Weatherization Assistance Advisory Board and specifies its membership and responsibilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

MEMBERSHIP

Under the bill, the board must consist of at least the Department of Public Utility Control and other agencies designated by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), each electric and gas company doing business in Connecticut, municipal electric and gas utilities, electric generation companies, retail oil companies, Operation Fuel (a nonprofit organization that provides energy assistance), INFOLINE (a social services referral agency), community action agencies designated by the OPM secretary, and a representative designated by legal services (presumably Connecticut Legal Services) to represent the beneficiaries of energy assistance programs.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The board must advise the OPM secretary, Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, and Energy and Technology and Human Services committees regarding the development and implementation of the energy assistance and weatherization plans required by law. The board must participate in the development of any reports or plans regarding these issues that OPM or DSS prepare or are required to prepare. The board must monitor the administration of the plans. OPM must schedule monthly board meetings, which must be staffed by the secretary or his designees and DSS staff who are responsible for

energy assistance and weatherization programs.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 6358, "An Act Improving the Administration of the Energy Assistance Programs in the State," favorably reported by the Energy and Technology and Human Services committees, increases the scope of the energy assistance plan that DSS must present annually to the legislative committees of cognizance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 16 Nay 0

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 19 Nay 0