



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 251**

*January Session, 2005*

House Bill No. 5921

*House of Representatives, April 11, 2005*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) There shall be a Low-  
2 Income Energy Advisory Board which shall consist of the following  
3 members or their designees: The Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
4 Management; the Commissioner of Social Services; the executive  
5 director of the Commission on Aging; a representative of each electric  
6 and gas public service company designated by each such company; the  
7 chairperson of the Department of Public Utility Control; the Consumer  
8 Counsel; the executive director of Operation Fuel; the executive  
9 director of Infoline; the director of the Connecticut Local  
10 Administrators of Social Services; the executive director of Legal  
11 Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut; the Connecticut president  
12 of AARP; a designee of the Norwich Public Utility; a designee of the  
13 Connecticut Petroleum Dealers Association; and a representative of the  
14 community action agencies administering energy assistance programs



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:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 06 \$</b>	<b>FY 07 \$</b>
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF-None	None	None
Public Utility Control, Dept.; Consumer Counsel	CC&PUCF - None	None	None
Social Services, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund; CC&PUCF=Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill establishes a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board and appoints the following state agency heads, or their designees: the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM); the Commissioner of Social Services (DSS); the Executive Director of the Commission on Aging; the Chairperson of the Department of Public Utility Control; the Consumer Counsel. The bill requires OPM to convene the first meeting, provide space, maintain minutes and publish reports of the board. It is anticipated that representatives from each of these agencies can participate within their normal budgetary resources.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 5921

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board and specifies its members and duties. The board must:

1. advise and assist the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) in planning, developing, implementing, and coordinating energy assistance related programs and policies and low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies;
2. advise the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) on the impact of utility rates and policies; and
3. make recommendations to the General Assembly about legislation and plans subject to legislative approval to ensure affordable access to residential energy services for low-income state residents.

The OPM secretary or his designee serves as the chairperson of the board. The secretary must convene the board's first meeting by December 1, 2005. The secretary must provide notice of meetings to the members of the board, provide space for such meetings, maintain minutes, and publish the board's reports.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

**MEMBERS**

The board consists of the following individuals or their designees: the OPM secretary; the DSS commissioner; the executive director of the Commission on Aging; a person designated by each electric and gas company; the DPUC chairperson; the Office of Consumer Counsel; the executive directors of Operation Fuel, Infoline; and the Legal

Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut; the director of the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services; the Connecticut president of American Association of Retired Persons; designee of the Norwich Public Utility and the Connecticut Petroleum Dealers Association; and a representative of the community action agencies administering energy assistance programs under contract with DSS, designated by the Connecticut Association for Community Action.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference  
Yea 15 Nay 0

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 15 Nay 1