



House of Representatives

File No. 830

General Assembly

January Session, 2005

(Reprint of File No. 251)

House Bill No. 5921
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
June 3, 2005

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 from passage*) (a) There shall be a Low-
2 Income Energy Advisory Board which shall consist of the following
3 members: The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the
4 secretary's designee; the Commissioner of Social Services or the
5 commissioner's designee; the executive director of the Commission on
6 Aging; a representative of each electric and gas public service
7 company designated by each such company; the chairperson of the
8 Department of Public Utility Control or a commissioner of the
9 Department of Public Utility Control designated by the chairperson;
10 the Consumer Counsel or the counsel's designee; the executive director
11 of Operation Fuel; the executive director of Infoline; the director of the
12 Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services; the executive
13 director of Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut; the
14 Connecticut president of AARP; a designee of the Norwich Public
15 Utility; a designee of the Connecticut Petroleum Dealers Association;

16 and a representative of the community action agencies administering
17 energy assistance programs under contract with the Department of
18 Social Services, designated by the Connecticut Association for
19 Community Action.

20 (b) The Low-Income Energy Advisory Board shall advise and assist
21 the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Social
22 Services in the planning, development, implementation and
23 coordination of energy assistance related programs and policies and
24 low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies, shall
25 advise the Department of Public Utility Control regarding the impact
26 of utility rates and policies, and shall make recommendations to the
27 General Assembly regarding legislation and plans subject to legislative
28 approval to ensure affordable access to residential energy services to
29 low-income state residents.

30 (c) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the
31 person designated by the secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of this
32 section shall be the chairperson of the board.

33 (d) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
34 convene the first meeting of the board not later than August 1, 2005.
35 The secretary shall provide notice of meetings to the members of Low-
36 Income Energy Advisory Board, provide space for such meetings,
37 maintain minutes and publish reports of the board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF	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 as amended establishes a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board and appoints the following state agency heads: 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 as amended 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.

House "A" makes a variety of changes which results in no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5921 (as amended by House "A")*

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 August 1, 2005. The secretary must provide notice of meetings to board members, provide space for such meetings, maintain minutes, and publish the board's reports.

*House Amendment "A" requires the board to hold its first meeting by August 1, 2005 rather than December 1, 2005, limits which members can appoint designees to serve on the board, and makes the bill effective upon passage, rather than October 1, 2005.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MEMBERS

The board consists of the following individuals: 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. The OPM secretary, DSS commissioner, and Consumer Counsel can be represented by their designees; the DPUC chairperson can be represented by another DPUC commissioner.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

On April 19 and May 3, the House referred the bill (File 251) to the Legislative Management and Government Administration and Elections committees, respectively. The committees favorably reported the bill on April 27 and May 5, respectively.

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

Joint Committee on Legislative Management

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 25 Nay 0

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 16 Nay 0