



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 5799**

LCO No. 2666

\*02666\_\_\_\_\_PD\_\*

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:  
(PD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL OVERSIGHT OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-886 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

3 (a) Each community action agency shall administer its program  
4 through a community action board which shall consist of not more  
5 than ~~[fifty-one]~~ twenty-five and not less than fifteen members and shall  
6 be so constituted that:

7 (1) One-third of the members of the board are elected public officials  
8 currently holding office, or their designees, except that if the number  
9 of elected officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than  
10 one-third of the membership of the board, membership on the board of  
11 appointive public officials may be counted in meeting such one-third  
12 requirement. [;] The chief elected official of each municipality in the  
13 community served by the community action agency shall be a member  
14 of the board;

15 (2) At least one-third of the members of the board are persons  
16 chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate  
17 to assure that they are representative of the poor in the area served;  
18 [and]

19 (3) The director of social services programs in each municipality in  
20 the community served by the community action agency; and

21 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) The remainder of the members of the board are officials or  
22 members of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education or  
23 other major groups and interests in the community.

24 (b) Each member of the board selected to represent a specific  
25 geographic area within a community shall reside in the area he  
26 represents.

27 (c) The duties of the board shall be to (1) review and approve the  
28 annual budget; (2) review and approve all contracts over twenty-five  
29 thousand dollars; (3) review and approve component projects that  
30 assist participants in attaining objectives identified in section 17b-890;  
31 (4) review quarterly maintenance equipment reports of all vehicles; (5)  
32 review the annual audit; and (6) review and comment on reports  
33 received pursuant to section 2 of this act.

34 (d) The board shall adopt bylaws setting standards for entering into  
35 contracts for goods, materials and services. Such standards shall, at a  
36 minimum, include provisions for notice, request for proposals, and  
37 selection of the lowest responsible bid and shall be at least as stringent  
38 as standards for state contracting agencies under chapter 62.

39 (e) The accounts of the community action agency shall be subject to  
40 annual audits. The state Auditors of Public Accounts and the  
41 Commissioner of Social Services shall jointly select the auditors. The  
42 audit report shall be sent to the joint standing committee of the  
43 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
44 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) Whenever a municipality  
46 submits an application on behalf of a resident to a community action  
47 agency for assistance under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance  
48 Program, 42 USC 8621 et seq., the community action agency  
49 established under section 17b-886, as amended by this act, shall  
50 approve or disapprove the application not more than ten days after the  
51 date of submission. The applicant may appeal a disapproval by the  
52 community action agency to the board. Such board shall render a  
53 decision on the appeal not more than ten days after the date of receipt  
54 of the appeal.

55 (b) On or before January 1, 2009, and quarterly thereafter, the  
56 community action agency shall submit a written report to the agency  
57 board which contains the following information for the Low Income  
58 Home Energy Assistance Program, 42 USC 8621 et seq.: (1) The  
59 number of applications submitted, (2) the number of applications  
60 approved, (3) the number of participants who refused services, and (4)  
61 the number of approved applications where services were unable to be  
62 performed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17b-886
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To revise the membership and duties of community action boards.

*[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.]*