



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Raised Bill No. 1101**

LCO No. 4483

\*04483\_\_\_\_\_ET\_\*

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:  
(ET)

**AN ACT CONCERNING COORDINATION OF LOW-INCOME ENERGY PROGRAMS.**

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

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2 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before June 30,  
3 2010, the Department of Public Utility Control shall conduct a  
4 contested case proceeding regarding development of discounted rates  
5 for service provided by gas and electric distribution companies to low-  
6 income customers. Such proceeding shall include, but not be limited  
7 to, review of the current and future availability of rate discounts for  
8 individuals who receive means-tested assistance administered by the  
9 state or federal government through any electricity purchasing pool  
10 operated by the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section  
11 16a-14e of the general statutes, energy assistance benefits available  
12 through any plan adopted pursuant to section 16a-41a of the general  
13 statutes or through state funded or administered programs,  
14 conservation assistance available pursuant to sections 16-245m and 16-  
15 32f of the general statutes, assistance funded or administered by the  
16 Department of Social Services or the Office of Policy and Management,

17 renewable energy resource assistance available pursuant to section 16-  
18 245n of the general statutes, or matching payment program benefits  
19 available pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the general  
20 statutes. The department shall (1) coordinate resources and programs,  
21 to the extent practicable; (2) develop rates that take into account the  
22 indigency of persons of poverty status and allow such households to  
23 meet the costs of essential energy needs; and (3) prepare an analysis of  
24 the benefits and anticipated costs of such discounted rates.

25 (b) The department shall order filing by each gas or electric  
26 company of proposed rates consistent with its decision pursuant to  
27 subsection (a) of this section not later than sixty days after its issuance  
28 and appropriate modification of existing low-income programs,  
29 including the matching payment program. Each company shall  
30 conduct outreach to make its low-income discounted rates available to  
31 eligible customers and report to the department at least annually  
32 regarding its outreach activities and the results of such activities.

33 (c) The cost of discounted rates and related outreach activities  
34 pursuant to this section shall be included in the rates charged to all  
35 other customers as follows: (1) An electric distribution company shall  
36 recover such costs through the systems benefits charge on a  
37 semiannual basis, and (2) a gas company shall recover such costs on a  
38 semiannual basis through a public benefits charge developed and  
39 approved by the department.

40 (d) On or before July 1, 2011, the department shall report, in  
41 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
42 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
43 matters relating to energy regarding the benefits and costs of the  
44 discounted rates established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
45 and any recommended modifications.

46 (e) The department shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
47 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the  
48 provisions of this section.

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

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a low-income discount rate for gas and electric customers.

*[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.]*