



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1101

January Session, 2009

* SB01101ET 031909 *

AN ACT CONCERNING COORDINATION OF LOW-INCOME ENERGY PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before June 30,
2 2010, the Department of Public Utility Control shall conduct a
3 proceeding regarding development of discounted rates for service
4 provided by gas and electric distribution companies to low-income
5 customers. Such proceeding shall include, but not be limited to, review
6 of the current and future availability of rate discounts for individuals
7 who receive means-tested assistance administered by the state or
8 federal government through any electricity purchasing pool operated
9 by the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section 16a-14e of
10 the general statutes, energy assistance benefits available through any
11 plan adopted pursuant to section 16a-41a of the general statutes or
12 through state funded or administered programs, conservation
13 assistance available pursuant to sections 16-245m and 16-32f of the
14 general statutes, assistance funded or administered by the Department
15 of Social Services or the Office of Policy and Management, renewable
16 energy resource assistance available pursuant to section 16-245n of the
17 general statutes, or matching payment program benefits available
18 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the general statutes.
19 The Department of Public Utility Control shall (1) coordinate resources
20 and programs, to the extent practicable; (2) develop rates that take into
21 account the indigency of persons of poverty status and allow such

22 persons' households to meet the costs of essential energy needs; and (3)
23 prepare an analysis of the benefits and anticipated costs of such
24 discounted rates.

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

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

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

47 (e) The Department of Public Utility Control shall adopt regulations,
48 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
49 to implement the 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

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*