Senate

General Assembly

File No. 253

February Session, 2010

Substitute Senate Bill No. 348

Senate, April 1, 2010

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through SEN. FONFARA, J. of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.

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

Section 1. Section 16a-41b of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

(a) There shall be a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board which shall consist of the following members: The **[**Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the secretary's designee; the Commissioner of Social Services or the commissioner's designee; the**]** executive director of the Commission on Aging; a representative of each electric and gas public service company designated by each such company; **[**the chairperson of the Department of Public Utility Control or a commissioner of the Department of Public Utility Control designated by the chairperson;**]** the Consumer Counsel or the counsel's designee; the executive director of Operation Fuel; the executive director of

Infoline; the director of the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services; the executive director of Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut; the Connecticut president of AARP; a designee of the Norwich Public Utility; a designee of the Connecticut Petroleum Dealers Association; and a representative of the community action agencies administering energy assistance programs under contract with the Department of Social Services, designated by the Connecticut Association for Community Action. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioner of Social Services and the chairperson of the Public Utilities Control Authority, or their designees, shall serve as ex-officio members of the board.

(b) The Low-Income Energy Advisory Board shall advise and assist the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Social Services in the planning, development, implementation and coordination of energy-assistance-related programs and policies and low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies, shall advise the Department of Public Utility Control regarding the impact of utility rates and policies, and shall make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding (1) legislation and plans subject to legislative approval, and (2) administration of the block grant program authorized under the Low-Income Energy Assistance Act, as described in section 16a-41a, to ensure affordable access to residential energy services to low-income state residents.

(c) **[**The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the person designated by the secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be the chairperson of the board.**]** On an annual basis, the board shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members.

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

Energy Advisory Board shall be within the Office of Policy and Management for administrative purposes only.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2010*	16a-41b

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In section 1(a), "Department of Public Utility Control" was changed to "Public Utilities Control Authority" for accuracy.

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which makes changes in the composition and administrative support for the Low Income Energy Advisory Board, results in no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis
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AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, the Social Services commissioner, and the Department of Public Utility Control chairperson, or their respective designees, ex-officio rather than voting members of the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board. Under current law, the OPM secretary or his designee chairs the board; the bill instead requires the board annually to elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from its members.

The bill places the board in OPM for administrative purposes only. It eliminates requirements that the OPM secretary notify board members of meetings, provide space for the board's meetings, maintain minutes, and publish the board's reports.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2010

BACKGROUND

Low-Income Energy Advisory Board

By law, the board must advise and assist OPM and the Department of Social Services in planning, developing, implementing and coordinating programs and policies related to energy and low-income weatherization assistance. It must advise the Department of Public Utility Control regarding the impact of utility rates and policies. It must make recommendations to the legislature on (1) legislation and plans subject to legislative approval and (2) administration of the Low-Income Energy Assistance block grant to ensure affordable access to residential energy services to low-income state residents.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/16/2010)