



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, members of the Committee:

I am State Senator Rob Kane and I am here to speak in favor of **House Bill 5207: AN ACT CONCERNING A SPECIAL ELECTRICITY RATE FOR SENIORS WHO HEAT THEIR HOMES WITH ELECTRICITY.**

This bill calls for a study of the reintroduction of a special electric rate for senior citizens that have electric heat in their homes. This bill would require the Department of Public Utility Control to initiate a docket to consider a special electricity rate for people age 55 and older who heat their homes exclusively with electricity.

State Representative Arthur O'Neill and I recently spoke with hundreds of seniors at Heritage Village in Southbury about what has been called a "hidden tax" on their electric bills. The village is New England's largest age-restricted community, with 2,580 units.

More than 3000 residents at Heritage Village have signed a petition to ask the state legislature to repeal a new law that levies an extra \$4 monthly charge on Connecticut Light & Power Co. bills for the next eight years. That means a typical customer could spend close to \$400 by the time the collection period is over. For those who use more electricity, the bill could be closer to \$1,000. The charge will hit Heritage Village residents especially hard because they heat their condominiums with electricity.

People should not be penalized because they heat with electricity. The current system is unfair to these seniors in Southbury. These are people who are on fixed incomes yet we are burdening them even more with these unequal charges. All they want is equal treatment and this bill accomplishes that goal.

So on behalf of those thousands of residents at Heritage Village and on behalf of the thousands of seniors across my district, I urge the committee to vote in favor of Bill 5207.

Thank you.