



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**Raised Bill No. 6582**

LCO No. 4493

\*04493\_\_\_\_\_CE\_\*

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:

(CE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANDING THE STATE'S SOLAR ENERGY ECONOMY.**

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 September  
2 1, 2011, the Department of Economic and Community Development, in  
3 consultation with the Department of Public Utility Control, the  
4 Connecticut Development Authority and the electric distribution  
5 companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, shall  
6 establish a solar energy program to partner with private banks and  
7 lending institutions to provide loans to in-state small businesses and  
8 residential electric customers to finance solar installations. Said  
9 program shall include, but not be limited to, a mechanism for such  
10 businesses and customers to repay loans made pursuant to the  
11 program established in this section through their monthly electricity  
12 bills. Loans made pursuant to this section shall be structured so that  
13 the cost savings from such solar installations offset the monthly  
14 payback amount.

15 (b) As part of the program established pursuant to subsection (a) of  
16 this section, the Department of Economic and Community

17 Development shall establish participation criteria for (1) installers of  
18 solar energy systems, which shall include, but not be limited to,  
19 consideration of such installer's prior experience, in-state location and  
20 number of jobs potentially created by such participation, and (2)  
21 private banks and lending institutions.

22 (c) The Department of Economic and Community Development  
23 shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54  
24 of the general statutes to implement the program established pursuant  
25 to subsection (a) of this section, including, but not limited to, eligibility  
26 for and the terms of any loans awarded pursuant to such program and  
27 the application procedures.

28 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 32-1m of the general statutes is  
29 amended by adding subdivision (23) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2011,*  
30 *and applicable to the report due on or before February 1, 2012*):

31 (NEW) (23) With regard to the solar installation program,  
32 established pursuant to section 1 of this act, a summary of the activity  
33 of such program, including, but not limited to, the number of  
34 installations, the estimated number of jobs created and the estimated  
35 resulting energy savings.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011, and applicable to the report due on or before February 1, 2012</i>	32-1m(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a program that would allow small businesses and residential electricity customers to install solar energy systems with on-the-bill financing and would grow jobs in the area of solar energy installations.

*[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.]*