
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6249 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS FOR THE SITING OF WIND PROJECTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Connecticut Siting Council, in consultation with the departments of Public Utility Control and Environmental Protection, to adopt regulations concerning the siting of wind turbines. The regulations must at least consider (1) setbacks, including tower height and distance from neighboring properties; (2) flicker; (3) a requirement for the developer to decommission the facility at the end of its useful life; (4) different requirements for different size projects; (5) ice throw; (6) blade shear; (7) noise; and (8) impact on natural resources. The regulations must also require a public hearing for wind turbine projects.

By law, the council can approve proposals for electric generating facilities by (1) granting a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need or (2) issuing a declaratory ruling, depending on the facility's characteristics. The bill bars the council from acting on any application or petition for siting a wind turbine until the regulations are adopted.

*House Amendment "A" (1) requires the regulations to address noise, (2) removes a provision requiring the council to stop its consideration of pending applications until the regulations are adopted, (3) applies the bill's provisions to petitions, and (4) makes the bill effective July 1, 2011 rather than upon passage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 6 (02/15/2011)

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 8 (04/11/2011)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 40 Nay 10 (04/26/2011)