



A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects
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**Senate Bill 450, An Act Concerning Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
Energy and Technology Committee
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The Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Connecticut) is the professional associations representing approximately 1,350 members across the State of Connecticut. AIA Connecticut members commit themselves to the highest standards of practice and code of ethics that addresses responsibilities to the public, clients, the building industry, and the art and science of architecture. Pursuant to Connecticut State Statutes one must be licensed in the State of Connecticut to practice architecture in order to safeguard life, health and property for the public benefit. Established in 1902, AIA Connecticut serves the architectural profession, encourages design excellence, and works to improve society through a concern for the quality of the built and natural environments. AIA Connecticut and its members work to improve society through a concern for the quality of the built and natural environments.

Senate Bill 450, An Act Concerning Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy, makes a number of changes to laws concerning energy efficiency, conservation and infrastructure to address some of the issues that arose out of recent storm events in the state. Section 7 of the bill would require builders contracting for the construction of certain buildings to inform consumers of energy-efficiency incentives.

While AIA Connecticut commends the Energy and Technology Committee and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for their efforts to make buildings more energy efficient and strongly supports these efforts, the language in sec. 7 of the bill will not accomplish what the proponents are trying to do. Information provided by a building contractor, who is constructing a commercial or industrial building from plans that have already been designed, to incorporate energy-efficient measures in the project is too late in the process. Energy alternatives are most efficiently explored, coordinated, budgeted and planned during the design process, prior to bidding. To require a contractor to inform commercial and industrial owners of incentives prior to entering the contract would not work as intended and would simply complicate the bid process.

Viewed more broadly, we do not support imposing any duty of this nature on any design or construction professional. Energy-efficiency incentives are available from a wide variety of state and federal resources as well as additional resources which are changing often due to changing availability of funding. Many times, it is not clear which incentives may be applicable to a project, or which are the best fit for a project, until the project design has progressed. Such alternatives are best explored by the parties without the artificial and unworkable burden of a pre-contract notification obligation. We propose, therefore, that sec. 7 be deleted.

Please contact Diane Harp Jones, CEO/EVP of AIA Connecticut at 203.865.2195 or dhjones@aiaact.org, if you have any questions or if you need additional information.