



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 569**

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5445

*House of Representatives, April 23, 2012*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS UNDER THE CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.***

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

1       Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Each electric distribution or gas  
2       company that receives, on behalf of any of its customers, a payment  
3       under the Connecticut energy assistance program during the 2012  
4       calendar year that supplements the program benefit available to a  
5       similarly situated household on March 15, 2012, shall deduct an  
6       amount equal to such supplemental payment from the customer's  
7       account if such deduction is not otherwise made pursuant to  
8       subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the general  
9       statutes. The cost of customer account deductions made pursuant to  
10      this section shall be paid through the normal rate-making procedures  
11      of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for a gas company and  
12      through the systems benefits charge for an electric distribution  
13      company.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**APP**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** See Below

**Municipal Impact:** See Below

**Explanation**

The bill allows certain Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) recipients to receive a matching payment for a supplemental energy assistance benefit. The bill specifies that the matching payment be funded through the normal rate-making procedures of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) for a gas company and through the systems benefits charge<sup>1</sup> for an electric distribution company. To the extent the current systems benefits charge is not sufficient to support such a payment, the rate for the systems benefits charge would be increased. Rate payers, including the state and municipalities would incur minimal increased systems benefits charge rates.

**The Out Years**

The fiscal impact identified above is one time in nature and has no ongoing fiscal impact.

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<sup>1</sup> The systems benefits charge is funded by a rate set by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. Effective January 1, 2012, the average systems benefits charge for CL&P is 0.143 cents per kilowatt-hour to collect \$23.7 million in 2012. The average systems benefits charge for UI is 0.2367 cents per kilowatt-hour to collect \$13.3 million in 2012.

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**OFA Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5445**

***AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS UNDER THE CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.***

**SUMMARY:**

The bill allows certain Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) recipients to receive a matching payment for a supplemental energy assistance benefit. The bill specifies that the matching payment be funded through the normal rate-making procedures of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) for a gas company and through the systems benefits charge for an electric distribution company.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 38 Nay 17 (04/03/2012)