

**STATEMENT
Of
UIL HOLDINGS CORPORATION
Energy and Technology Committee**

**SB 121 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION PROTOCOLS FOR
MINORS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN ACCOUNTS WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES**

Good afternoon, Senator Doyle, Representative Reed and members of the Energy & Technology Committee. My name is Laura Gonzalez and I am Director of Credit and Collections at UIL Holdings Corporation. The United Illuminating Company (UI), The Southern Connecticut Gas Company (SCG) and Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (CNG) are operating companies of UIL Holding Corporation (UIL).

UIL, on behalf of its operating companies, appreciates this opportunity to offer comments in support of Senate Bill 121 which aims to protect the identity and credit history of minors. It may prevent adults from establishing accounts in the names of their children which could ultimately adversely impact their credit history. This practice also impacts utility company uncollectible expense as adults move out of homes or close accounts without paying their utility bills and therefore impacts all rate payers.

UI, SCG and CNG each have established account verification processes. The companies presently use two different third party solutions to verify social security numbers but will be evaluating both to determine a consistent verification process across the operating companies. UI currently utilizes a third party credit reporting agency solution to verify a customer's social security number. However there is not a cross check to the birthdate and it could be a minor's social security number. As long as it is a valid social security number the account will be established.

If a social security numbers fails the validation process, customers will be required to provide two forms of identification, one of which must be a photo id, as permitted by Connecticut General Statutes. In the interim, the account will be established. However, if the customer does not provide the necessary documentation in thirteen days the account will be closed and service terminated also as permitted by state law.

SCG and CNG also utilize a third party solution to validate social security numbers. The gas affiliates' solution does provide a date of birth determination and the company will not establish an account in the name of a minor. If a social security number fails the validation process, like UI, customers will be required to provide two forms of identification within thirteen days in the same manner as UI. Again, as stated above, all UIL operating companies will use a uniform validation protocol later this year.

UIL Holdings Corporation and its operating Companies are in favor of SB 121 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION PROTOCOLS FOR MINORS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN ACCOUNTS WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES and urge the Committee to draft the bill as a committee bill and give it a Joint Favorable Report.

If you have any questions on this issue, please contact Carlos Vázquez, Senior Director of Government Relations at 203-521-2455 or Al Carbone, Government Relations Professional at 203-671-4421.