



House of Representatives

File No. 920

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

(Reprint of File No. 526)

House Bill No. 6838
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 30, 2015

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF LOCAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL
RENEWABLE ENERGY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 16-245ff of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) As used in this section and section 16-245gg, as amended by this
4 act:

5 (1) "Performance-based incentive" means an incentive paid out on a
6 per kilowatt-hour basis.

7 (2) "Expected performance-based buydown" means an incentive
8 paid out as a one-time upfront incentive based on expected system
9 performance.

10 (3) "Qualifying residential solar photovoltaic system" means a solar
11 photovoltaic project that receives funding from the Connecticut Green
12 Bank, is certified by the authority as a Class I renewable energy source,

13 as defined in subsection (a) of section 16-1, emits no pollutants, is less
14 than twenty kilowatts in size, is located on the customer-side of the
15 revenue meter of one-to-four family homes and serves the distribution
16 system of an electric distribution company.

17 (4) "Solar home renewable energy credit" means a Class I renewable
18 energy credit created by the production of one megawatt hour of
19 electricity generated by one or more qualifying residential solar
20 photovoltaic systems with an approved incentive from the Connecticut
21 Green Bank on or after January 1, 2015.

22 [(a)] (b) The Connecticut Green Bank established pursuant to section
23 16-245n shall structure and implement a residential solar investment
24 program established pursuant to this section, which shall [result in a
25 minimum of thirty] support the deployment of not more than three
26 hundred megawatts of new residential solar photovoltaic installations
27 located in this state on or before (1) December 31, 2022, [the annual] or
28 (2) the deployment of three hundred megawatts of residential solar
29 photovoltaic installation, in the aggregate, whichever occurs sooner,
30 provided the bank does not approve direct financial incentives under
31 this section for more than one hundred megawatts of new qualifying
32 residential solar photovoltaic systems, in the aggregate, between the
33 date of passage of this act and April 1, 2016. The procurement and cost
34 of [which] such program shall be determined by the bank [and the cost
35 of which shall not exceed one-third of the total surcharge collected
36 annually pursuant to said] in accordance with this section. [16-245n.]

37 [(b)] (c) The Connecticut Green Bank shall offer direct financial
38 incentives, in the form of performance-based incentives or expected
39 performance-based buydowns, for the purchase or lease of qualifying
40 residential solar photovoltaic systems until the earlier of the following:
41 (1) December 31, 2022, or (2) the deployment of three hundred
42 megawatts, in the aggregate, of residential solar photovoltaic
43 installation. [For the purposes of this section, "performance-based
44 incentives" means incentives paid out on a per kilowatt-hour basis,
45 and "expected performance-based buydowns" means incentives paid

46 out as a one-time upfront incentive based on expected system
47 performance.] The bank shall consider willingness to pay studies and
48 verified solar photovoltaic system characteristics, such as operational
49 efficiency, size, location, shading and orientation, when determining
50 the type and amount of incentive. Notwithstanding the provisions of
51 subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 16-244c, the amount of
52 renewable energy produced from Class I renewable energy sources
53 receiving tariff payments or included in utility rates under this section
54 shall be applied to reduce the electric distribution company's Class I
55 renewable energy source portfolio standard [. Customers who receive
56 expected performance-based buydowns under this section shall not be
57 eligible for a credit pursuant to section 16-243h] until the Public
58 Utilities Regulatory Authority approves the master purchase
59 agreement pursuant to subsection (e) of section 16-245gg, as amended
60 by this act.

61 [(c)] (d) [Beginning with the comprehensive plan covering the
62 period from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2013, the] The Connecticut Green
63 Bank shall develop and publish [in each such plan] on its Internet web
64 site a proposed schedule for the offering of performance-based
65 incentives or expected performance-based buydowns over the
66 duration of any such solar incentive program. Such schedule shall: (1)
67 Provide for a series of solar capacity blocks the combined total of
68 which shall be a [minimum] maximum of [thirty] three hundred
69 megawatts and projected incentive levels for each such block; (2)
70 provide incentives that are sufficient to meet reasonable payback
71 expectations of the residential consumer and provide such consumer
72 with a competitive electricity price, taking into consideration the
73 estimated cost of residential solar installations, the value of the energy
74 offset by the system, the cost of financing the system, and the
75 availability and estimated value of other incentives, including, but not
76 limited to, federal and state tax incentives and revenues from the sale
77 of solar home renewable energy credits; (3) provide incentives that
78 decline over time and will foster the sustained, orderly development of
79 a state-based solar industry; (4) automatically adjust to the next block

80 once the board has issued reservations for financial incentives
81 provided pursuant to this section from the board fully committing the
82 target solar capacity and available incentives in that block; and (5)
83 provide comparable economic incentives for the purchase or lease of
84 qualifying residential solar photovoltaic systems. The [bank]
85 Connecticut Green Bank may retain the services of a third-party entity
86 with expertise in the area of solar energy program design to assist in
87 the development of the incentive schedule or schedules. The
88 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall review and
89 approve such schedule. Nothing in this subsection shall restrict the
90 [bank] Connecticut Green Bank from modifying the approved
91 incentive schedule [before the issuance of its next comprehensive plan]
92 to account for changes in federal or state law or regulation or
93 developments in the solar market when such changes would affect the
94 expected return on investment for a typical residential solar
95 photovoltaic system by [twenty] ten per cent or more. Any such
96 modification shall be subject to review and approval by the
97 department.

98 [(d)] (e) The Connecticut Green Bank shall establish and periodically
99 update program guidelines, including, but not limited to, requirements
100 for systems and program participants related to: (1) Eligibility criteria;
101 (2) standards for deployment of energy efficient equipment or building
102 practices as a condition for receiving incentive funding; (3) procedures
103 to provide reasonable assurance that such reservations are made and
104 incentives are paid out only to qualifying residential solar photovoltaic
105 systems demonstrating a high likelihood of being installed and
106 operated as indicated in application materials; and (4) reasonable
107 protocols for the measurement and verification of energy production.

108 [(e)] (f) The Connecticut Green Bank shall maintain on its Internet
109 web site the schedule of incentives, solar capacity remaining in the
110 current block and available funding and incentive estimators.

111 [(f)] (g) Funding for the residential [performance-based incentive
112 program and expected performance-based buydowns shall be

113 apportioned from] solar investment program (1) may include up to
114 one-third of the moneys collected annually under the surcharge
115 specified in section 16-245n; [, provided such apportionment shall not
116 exceed one-third of the total surcharge collected annually,] (2) shall
117 include all of the revenue from the solar home renewable energy credit
118 program; and (3) may be supplemented by federal funding as may
119 become available.

120 [(g)] (h) The Connecticut Green Bank shall identify barriers to the
121 development of a permanent Connecticut-based solar workforce and
122 shall make provision for comprehensive training, accreditation and
123 certification programs through institutions and individuals accredited
124 and certified to national standards.

125 (i) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall provide an
126 additional incentive of up to five per cent of the then-applicable
127 incentive provided pursuant to this section for the use of major system
128 components manufactured or assembled in Connecticut, and another
129 additional incentive of up to five per cent of the then-applicable
130 incentive provided pursuant to this section for the use of major system
131 components manufactured or assembled in a distressed municipality,
132 as defined in section 32-9p, or a targeted investment community, as
133 defined in section 32-222.

134 [(h)] (j) On or before January 1, [2014] 2017, and every two years
135 thereafter for the duration of the program, the Connecticut Green Bank
136 shall report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
137 having cognizance of matters relating to energy on progress toward
138 the goals identified in subsection [(a)] (b) of this section.

139 Sec. 2. Section 16-245gg of the general statutes is repealed and the
140 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

141 [The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall provide an
142 additional incentive of up to five per cent of the then-applicable
143 incentive provided pursuant to section 16-245ff for the use of major
144 system components manufactured or assembled in Connecticut, and

145 another additional incentive of up to five per cent of the then-
146 applicable incentive provided pursuant to section 16-245ff for the use
147 of major system components manufactured or assembled in a
148 distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-9p, or a targeted
149 investment community, as defined in section 32-222.]

150 (a) Not later than one hundred eighty days after July 1, 2015, the
151 Connecticut Green Bank shall negotiate and develop a master
152 purchase agreement with each electric distribution company. Each
153 such agreement shall have a term of fifteen years, and require the
154 electric distribution company to purchase solar home renewable
155 energy credits produced by qualifying residential solar photovoltaic
156 systems. Each electric distribution company's obligation to purchase
157 solar home renewable energy credits produced by qualifying
158 residential solar photovoltaic systems begins on the date that the
159 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority approves the master purchase
160 agreement pursuant to subsection (e) of this section and expires on
161 December 31, 2022.

162 (b) Solar home renewable energy credits shall be owned by the
163 Connecticut Green Bank, until transferred to an electric distribution
164 company pursuant to a master purchase agreement in accordance with
165 subsection (a) of this section. A solar home renewable energy credit
166 shall have an effective life covering the year of its production and the
167 following calendar year. The obligation of the electric distribution
168 companies to purchase solar home renewable energy credits pursuant
169 to the master purchase agreement shall be apportioned to electric
170 distribution companies based on their respective distribution system
171 loads at the commencement of the master purchase agreement period,
172 as determined by the authority.

173 (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of subsection (h) of section 16-
174 244c, an electric distribution company may retire the solar home
175 renewable energy credits it procures through the master purchase
176 agreement to satisfy its obligation pursuant to section 16-245a or such
177 company may resell such renewable energy credits, with the proceeds

178 from resale to be netted against contract costs.

179 (d) To develop a master purchase agreement, the Connecticut Green
180 Bank and an electric distribution company shall negotiate in good faith
181 the final terms of the draft master purchase agreement. Thirty days
182 after the date negotiations commence, either the Connecticut Green
183 Bank or an electric distribution company may initiate a docket
184 proceeding before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to resolve
185 any outstanding issues pertaining to the master purchase agreement.

186 (e) Upon completion of negotiations on a master purchase
187 agreement the Connecticut Green Bank and the electric distribution
188 company shall not later than January 1, 2016, jointly file, with the
189 authority, an application for approval of the agreement by the
190 authority. No such master purchase agreement may become effective
191 without approval of the authority. The authority shall hold a contested
192 case, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to approve, reject
193 or modify an application for approval of the master purchase
194 agreement.

195 (f) The purchase price of solar home renewable energy credits shall
196 be determined by the Connecticut Green Bank, and such purchase
197 price shall decline over time commensurate with the schedule of
198 declining performance-based incentives and expected performance-
199 based buydowns. Such purchase price shall not exceed the lesser of
200 either (1) the price of small zero-emission renewable energy credit
201 projects for the preceding year, or (2) five dollars less per renewable
202 energy credit than the alternative compliance payment pursuant to
203 subsection (k) of section 16-245. Any customer of an electric
204 distribution company that is eligible for the residential solar
205 investment program shall not be eligible for small zero-emission
206 renewable energy credits pursuant to section 16-244s.

207 (g) The electric distribution companies' costs associated with
208 complying with this section shall be recoverable on a timely basis
209 through a fully reconciling, nonbypassable rate component. Nothing in

210 this section shall preclude the resale or other disposition of energy or
211 associated renewable energy credits purchased by an electric
212 distribution company, provided the electric distribution company shall
213 net the cost of payments made to projects under the master purchase
214 agreement against the proceeds of the sale of energy or renewable
215 energy credits and the difference shall be credited or charged to
216 electric distribution company customers through a reconciling
217 component of electric rates as determined by the authority that is
218 nonbypassable when switching electric suppliers.

219 (h) Each electric distribution company shall annually file with the
220 authority an accounting of all costs and fees incurred by such electric
221 distribution company while complying with the master purchase
222 agreement.

223 (i) Any certificates issued by the New England Power Pool
224 Generation Information System for Class I renewable energy credits
225 produced by a qualifying residential solar photovoltaic system after
226 the electric distribution company obligation, pursuant to subsections
227 (a) and (b) of this section, to purchase solar home renewable energy
228 credits from such system expires shall be transferred from the
229 Connecticut Green Bank to the electric distribution company that
230 services the area where such residential solar photovoltaic system is
231 located. The electric distribution company shall either (1) resell such
232 credits into the New England Power Pool Generation Information
233 System renewable energy credit market, to be used by any electric
234 supplier or electric distribution company to meet the requirements of
235 section 16-245a, so long as the revenues from such sale are credited to
236 the electric distribution company's customers, or (2) retain such
237 certificates to meet such company's requirements under section 16-
238 245a. In considering whether to sell or retain such certificates, the
239 company shall select the option that is in the best interest of such
240 company's ratepayers.

241 Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2015) (a) As used in this section:

242 (1) "Residential solar photovoltaic system" means equipment and
243 devices that have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and
244 generating electricity by photovoltaic effect, have a nameplate capacity
245 rating of twelve kilowatts or less, are installed on the roof of a single-
246 family home and conform to the Connecticut State Building Code;

247 (2) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated
248 town and city or consolidated town and borough;

249 (3) "Electronic submission" means the act of a permit applicant who
250 submits his or her completed application to a municipality for review
251 by means of electronic mail, facsimile or electronic application
252 available on a municipality's Internet web site.

253 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, each municipality shall
254 incorporate residential solar photovoltaic systems in its building
255 permit application process or utilize a residential solar photovoltaic
256 system permit application supplement. Each municipality may (1)
257 develop and post on the municipality's Internet web site a permit
258 application for the installation of a residential solar photovoltaic
259 system, (2) allow for electronic submission of such application, and (3)
260 exempt such system from payment of permit fees pursuant to
261 subsection (c) of section 29-263 of the general statutes.

262 (c) Not more than thirty days after receipt of a permit application, a
263 municipality shall inform such permit applicant whether such
264 application is approved or disapproved.

265 (d) In conducting inspections of work completed pursuant to a
266 residential solar photovoltaic system permit, a local building official
267 may use additional resources as described in the International
268 Residential Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code.
269 Inspections shall be performed pursuant to said International
270 Residential Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code.

271 (e) Nothing in this section shall authorize any person to cause any
272 home or structure located within a historic district established

273 pursuant to section 7-147b of the general statutes to be altered, as
274 defined in section 7-147a of the general statutes.

275 (f) Not later than December 1, 2015, the Connecticut Green Bank, in
276 consultation with the office of the State Building Inspector, shall plan,
277 implement and host five residential solar photovoltaic system permit
278 training seminars, in different municipalities for the purpose of
279 providing guidance and information to municipal officials developing
280 a permitting process in accordance with this section. The Connecticut
281 Green Bank may consult with the Connecticut Conference of
282 Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the
283 Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association and any other
284 organization or representative of such organization in the planning
285 and implementation of the training seminars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	16-245ff
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	16-245gg
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section

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.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill expands the Connecticut Green Bank's residential solar investment program. The Connecticut Green Bank is a quasi-public state agency which does not currently receive state funding. The program is not estimated to have a fiscal impact on the state or municipalities as ratepayers.

House "A" eliminates the original bill and the associated impact and results in the impact described above.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6838 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the Connecticut Green Bank's residential solar investment program and standardizes certain steps in the municipal permitting process for installing residential solar systems.

Regarding the solar investment program, the bill:

1. allows the program to support up to 300 megawatts (MW) of new residential solar photovoltaic (PV) installations by the end of 2022, instead of requiring it to provide 30 MW of PV installations by that time;
2. requires the program to end on the earlier of December 31, 2022 or when it achieves 300 MW of installations;
3. creates solar home renewable energy credits (SHRECs) which are owned by the Green Bank and generated when certain residential PV systems produce electricity;
4. requires electric distribution companies (EDCs, i.e., Eversource and United Illuminating) to purchase SHRECs from the Green Bank under a master purchase agreement negotiated between each EDC and the Green Bank;
5. expands the program's funding sources to include proceeds from the Green Bank's sale of SHRECs to the EDCs; and

6. allows the EDCs to recover their costs for purchasing the SHRECs through a reconciling (adjustable) component of their electric rates, as determined by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA).

Regarding the municipal permitting process, the bill requires each municipality, by January 1, 2016, to incorporate residential solar PV systems in their building permit application process or use a residential solar PV system permit application supplement. It also allows municipalities to (1) post applications online, (2) permit electronic filing, and (3) waive certain fees. Under the bill, municipalities must inform a permit applicant whether the application is approved or disapproved within 30 days of receiving an application.

The bill requires the Green Bank, in consultation with the state building inspector, to implement a residential solar PV system permit training seminar for municipal officials developing a permitting process.

It also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

*House Amendment "A", among other things, (1) makes 300 MW a cap, instead of a goal, for the solar investment program; (2) terminates the program of when it reaches the cap or December 31, 2022, whichever is earlier; (3) requires the purchase price of SHRECs to decline over time; (4) prohibits customers who participate in the program from participating in the Z-REC program; (5) requires the Green Bank to transfer RECS to the EDCs after their obligation to purchase them expires; and (6) adds the provisions on residential solar PV permitting.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on municipal permitting are effective October 1, 2015.

THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INVESTMENT PROGRAM

By law, the Green Bank's residential solar investment program offers financial incentives for purchasing or leasing certain residential

solar PV systems. The incentives are either (1) performance-based incentives paid out on a per kilowatt-hour (kWh) basis for the electricity the system produces or (2) expected performance-based buy downs that are a one-time upfront payment based on the system's expected performance.

The law provides these incentives for "qualifying residential solar PV systems." The bill specifies that these systems are solar PV projects that

1. receive funding from the Green Bank,
2. are certified by PURA as Class I renewable energy sources,
3. emit no pollutants,
4. generate less than 20 kilowatts,
5. are on the customer-side of a one- to-four-family home's revenue meter, and
6. serve an EDC's distribution system.

Current law requires the program to result in at least 30 MW of new residential PV systems by December 31, 2022. The bill instead (1) requires the program to support the deployment of up to 300 MW of systems by that date and (2) terminates the program on that date or when the program reaches the 300 MW cap, whichever occurs first. It also prohibits the bank from approving incentives for more than 100 MW of new systems between the date the bill passes and April 1, 2016.

The law allows the Green Bank to fund the program with up to one-third of the funds annually collected through the charge on electric bills that supports the Clean Energy Fund, plus any available federal funding. The bill requires the bank to also fund the program with all of the revenue it receives from the sale of SHRECs, which the bill creates.

Current law requires the renewable energy produced from a program's PV systems to be applied toward the EDCs' renewable portfolio standard requirements (RPS, a requirement to obtain a certain percentage of their energy from renewable energy sources) if it receives tariff payments or is included in utility rates. The bill eliminates this requirement once the master purchase agreement is approved and instead allows the EDCs to retire the SHRECS they must purchase under the bill to satisfy their RPS requirements.

Solar Home Renewable Energy Credits

The bill creates SHRECs, which are Class I renewable energy credits created for each megawatt hour of electricity produced by qualifying residential solar PV systems that receive approved incentives from the Green Bank on or after January 1, 2015. A SHREC has an effective life that covers the year it was produced and the next calendar year. It is owned by the Green Bank until transferred to an EDC under the master purchase agreement.

Under the bill, the Green Bank sets the purchase price for SHRECs, which must decline over time commensurate with the schedule of declining performance-based incentives and expected performance-based buy-downs. The price cannot exceed the lesser of (1) the preceding year's price for small Z-RECs (a similar renewable energy credit produced by certain zero-emission facilities) or (2) \$5 less per credit than the RPS alternative compliance payment (a 5.5 cents/kWh penalty for failing to meet RPS requirements). The bill prohibits EDC customers who are eligible for the SHREC program from also being eligible for the Z-REC program.

Master Purchase Agreement

The bill requires the Green Bank, within 180 days after July 1, 2015, to negotiate and develop a 15-year master purchase agreement with each EDC requiring the EDC to purchase the bank's SHRECs. Each EDC's obligation to purchase SHRECs must (1) begin once PURA approves the agreement; (2) expire on December 31, 2022; and (3) be apportioned based on its distribution system's demand for electricity,

as determined by PURA, when the agreement begins.

The bill requires the Green Bank and EDCs to negotiate in good faith to develop the agreement. If there are any outstanding issues 30 days after the negotiations start, either party may initiate a docket with PURA to resolve the issues. Once the negotiations are complete, the Green Bank and EDCs must, by January 1, 2016, jointly file the agreement for PURA's approval. PURA must hold a contested case under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act to approve, reject, or modify the agreement, which cannot become effective without PURA's approval. (The bill does not specify what criteria PURA must use to approve, reject, or modify an agreement.)

EDC Cost Recovery

The bill requires that EDCs timely recover their costs associated with complying with the bill's requirements through a fully reconciling (adjustable), non-bypassable rate component. Each EDC must annually file with PURA an accounting of all costs and fees it incurred while complying with the master purchase agreement.

The EDCs can resell or dispose of the energy or credits they purchased under the agreement, but the proceeds from the sale must be netted against their costs for complying with the agreement. The difference must be credited or charged to the EDC's customers through a PURA-determined reconciling component of their electric rates that cannot be bypassed by switching electric suppliers.

Once the EDCs' obligation to purchase SHRECs expires, any Class I renewable energy credits (RECs) produced by a qualifying residential PV system must be transferred from the Green Bank to the PV system's EDC. The EDC must either (1) resell the credits into the New England Power Pool Generation Information System REC market for electric suppliers and EDCs to meet their RPS requirements or (2) keep the credits to meet its own RPS requirements. In deciding whether to resell or keep the RECs, the EDC must select the option that is in its ratepayers' best interests.

Other Provisions

The bill eliminates a provision in current law that prohibits customers who receive the program's performance-based buy down from receiving net metering credits (i.e. billing credits that allow a customer to "run their meter backwards" based on how much excess electricity their PV system generates).

The bill requires the Green Bank to publish on its website, instead of in its biannual comprehensive plan a proposed schedule for offering program incentives. Among other things, current law requires the incentives to meet a consumer's reasonable payback expectations. The bill requires them to also provide the consumer with a competitive electricity price and adds the cost of financing the system to various other factors the bank must consider when setting the incentives (e.g., the value of energy offset by the system and the availability and value of other incentives).

Current law allows the Green Bank to modify an incentive schedule if changes in federal or state law or developments in the solar market would affect a typical residential PV system's expected return on investment by 20% or more. The bill lowers this threshold to 10% and subjects the modification to review and approval by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The bill also extends, from January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2017, the deadline for the Green Bank's next biannually required report to the Energy Committee on the program's progress.

RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING

The bill requires each municipality, by January 1, 2016, to incorporate residential solar PV systems in their building permit application process or use a residential solar PV system permit application supplement. Under the bill's permitting provisions, a residential solar PV system is equipment and devices that:

1. collect solar energy and generate electricity by photovoltaic

effect,

2. have a nameplate capacity rating of 12 kilowatts or less,
3. are installed on the roof of a single-family home, and
4. conform to the State Building code.

The bill allows a municipality, when developing a permitting process, to:

1. develop and post on its website a permit application for installing residential solar PV systems;
2. allow applicants to submit applications electronically; and
3. exempt the systems from municipal permit fees assessed on building permit applications to construct or alter a building or structure.

The bill requires municipalities to inform an applicant for a residential solar PV system whether the permit is approved or disapproved within 30 days after receiving the permit application. It allows local building officials, when inspecting the work completed under a permit, to use additional resources described in the International Residential Code portion of the State Building Code. Inspections must be performed according to this portion of the code.

The bill specifies that its provisions do not authorize anyone to alter homes or structures in historic districts.

Training Seminar

By December 1, 2015, the bill requires the Green Bank to plan, implement, and host at least five residential solar PV system permit training seminars in different municipalities to provide guidance and information to municipalities seeking to develop a permitting process. In planning and implementing the seminars, the Green Bank may consult with (1) the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, (2) the

Connecticut Council of Small Towns, (3) the Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association, and (4) other organizations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 8 (03/24/2015)