



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 530**

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6956

*House of Representatives, April 8, 2015*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ALBIS of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) There is established a panel on  
2 sustainable community rating systems. Such panel shall consist of the  
3 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioners  
4 of Energy and Environmental Protection, Housing, Economic and  
5 Community Development, Public Health and Transportation, or said  
6 secretary's and commissioners' designees. Additionally, such panel  
7 shall consist of a member of the Connecticut Green Bank and the chief  
8 elected officials, or such officials' designees, of three municipalities, as  
9 mutually selected by the cochairpersons and ranking members of the  
10 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
11 of matters relating to the environment and planning and development.  
12 Such panel shall assess the viability of developing a sustainable  
13 community rating system in the state. In making such assessment,  
14 such panel shall review sustainable community rating systems used on

15 either a national, state or regional level, including, but not limited to,  
 16 the STAR Community Rating System, the state of New York's Climate  
 17 Smart Communities Certification Program, Minnesota's Green Step  
 18 Cities Program and Sustainable Jersey. Such assessment shall include,  
 19 but not be limited to: (1) Consideration of the need to utilize one or  
 20 more state agencies to establish such a sustainable community rating  
 21 system in the state, (2) the availability of a third party to establish such  
 22 a sustainable community rating system in the state, (3) the benefits of  
 23 establishing a state and third-party partnership for the establishment  
 24 of such a sustainable community rating system, (4) the current efforts  
 25 of municipalities in the state to implement sustainable community  
 26 practices and policies, and (5) requisite incentives for encouraging  
 27 municipalities in the state to participate or seek certification as a  
 28 sustainable community under any such sustainable community ratings  
 29 system. Not later than January 1, 2016, such panel, in accordance with  
 30 section 11-4a of the general statutes, shall submit a report to the joint  
 31 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 32 matters relating to the environment, energy and technology, planning  
 33 and development, commerce, public health, housing and  
 34 transportation. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, any  
 35 recommendations for legislation to establish or assist in the  
 36 establishment of a sustainable community rating system in the state.

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

**ENV**      *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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	Less than \$1,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 in FY 16 to those agencies participating in the panel on sustainable community rating systems to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

**The Out Years**

There is no ongoing fiscal impact as the panel issues its' recommendations by January 1, 2016.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6956**

***AN ACT CONCERNING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 4 (03/20/2015)