



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 550

January Session, 2015

Senate Bill No. 575

Senate, April 8, 2015

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC RATE TRANSPARENCY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 16-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 In any matter within the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities
4 Regulatory Authority involving rates, charges or accommodation of
5 the public, the authority shall hold at least one session of its hearings
6 on such matter in [a town] three separate towns within the area served
7 by the public service company concerned with such matter, such
8 [town] towns to be selected to suit as nearly as practicable the
9 convenience of persons affected by such matter. Time shall be reserved
10 at each hearing session for public comment. Upon petition of not fewer
11 than twenty-five persons affected by such matter, such a session shall
12 be held in the evening. The authority shall have the discretion to hold
13 the remainder of its hearings, if any, anywhere within the state of
14 Connecticut.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	16-26
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ET *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Public Utility Control, Dept.	CC&PUCF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: CC&PUCF=Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill would require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to hold a public hearing in three separate towns within the area served by the public service company, for any matter involving rates, charges or accommodation of the public and to reserve time at each hearing session for public comment. Currently, PURA is required to hold one public hearing in a town within the area served by the public service company. The additional two public hearings would result in a minimal cost to PURA.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 575*****AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC RATE TRANSPARENCY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from one to three, the number of hearings that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) must hold on matters involving rates, charges, or public accommodation (i.e., utility company rate cases). Each hearing must be in a different town in the subject utility's service area and have time reserved for public comment. As under existing law, the towns selected to host the hearings must be as convenient as practicable to the people affected by the rate case.

The law, unchanged by the bill, also (1) requires PURA to hold a rate case hearing in the evening if at least 25 people petition for it and (2) gives PURA discretion to hold the rest of its hearings, if any, anywhere in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)