



# Senate

## File No. 912

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**(Reprint of File No. 550)**

Senate Bill No. 575  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 28, 2015

### ***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 Section 16-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 (a) In any matter within the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities  
4 Regulatory Authority involving rates, charges or accommodation of  
5 the public, which concerns:

6 (1) An electric distribution company that has a service area of not  
7 more than seventeen towns, the authority shall hold hearings on such  
8 matter in at least two towns within the service area of such company;

9 (2) An electric distribution company that has a service area of  
10 eighteen or more towns, the authority shall hold hearings on such  
11 matter in at least three towns within the service area of such company;  
12 or

13 (3) Any other public service company, the authority shall hold [at

14 least one session of its] a hearing or hearings on such matter in [a] at  
 15 least one town within the [area served by the public service] service  
 16 area of such company. [concerned with such matter, such town to be  
 17 selected]

18 (b) The authority shall select each town described in subsection (a)  
 19 of this section for a hearing to suit as nearly as practicable the  
 20 convenience of persons affected by [such] the matter. Upon petition of  
 21 not fewer than twenty-five persons affected by [such] the matter, any  
 22 such [a session] hearing shall be held in the evening. The authority  
 23 shall have the discretion to hold the remainder of its hearings on a  
 24 matter, if any, anywhere within the state of Connecticut.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	16-26

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:*** None***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.

House "A" makes technical changes to the underlining bill and results in the fiscal impact identified above.

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

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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 575 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC RATE TRANSPARENCY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the number of off-site hearings that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) must hold on matters involving changes to an electric distribution company's (Eversource and United Illuminating) rates, charges, or public accommodation (i.e., rate cases). Current law requires PURA to hold at least one rate case hearing in a town within a subject company's service area. The bill instead requires hearings in at least (1) two towns for a company that serves 17 or fewer towns (United Illuminating) and (2) three towns for a company that serves more than 17 towns (Eversource).

As under existing law, (1) the towns selected to host the hearings must be within the subject company's service area and as convenient as practicable to the people affected by the rate case; (2) PURA must hold a rate case hearing in the evening if at least 25 people petition for it; and (3) PURA may hold the rest of its hearings, if any, anywhere in the state.

\*House Amendment "A" (1) limits the bill's provisions to electric distribution companies instead of applying them to all PURA-regulated utilities and (2) specifies a different number of off-site hearings for each company.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)