



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6956**

January Session, 2015



**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.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 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.*