



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Committee Bill No. 565**

LCO No. 5191



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:  
(ET)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY AUDITS AND HEATING ASSISTANCE.**

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Energy assistance program" means a state or federally funded  
3 program that provides homeowners and renters with heating and  
4 energy assistance.
- 5 (2) "Energy conservation program" means an energy savings and  
6 weatherization program funded by electric distribution company  
7 ratepayers for eligible ratepayers.
- 8 (3) "Applicant" means a natural person or a household seeking  
9 energy assistance, energy conservation or both.
- 10 (4) "Energy assistance and conservation application" means an  
11 application that aggregates all energy assistance programs and energy  
12 conservation programs on one application form.
- 13 (5) "Conservation and load management program charge" means an

14 electric distribution company or gas company customer charge, as  
15 provided in section 16-245m of the general statutes, that is dedicated to  
16 funding energy conservation programs.

17 (6) "Home Energy Solutions program" means a home energy  
18 efficiency audit and energy conservation program funded by electric  
19 distribution company ratepayers for eligible ratepayers.

20 (7) "Home Energy Solutions - Income Eligible program" means a  
21 home energy efficiency audit and energy conservation program at no  
22 cost to homeowners and renters whose income falls below a  
23 designated level.

24 (8) "Tenant-applicant" means a tenant or household that rents a  
25 home or unit dwelling from a landlord and completes an energy  
26 assistance and conservation application.

27 (9) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as  
28 provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes.

29 (10) "Gas company" has the same meaning as provided in section  
30 16-1 of the general statutes.

31 (11) "Community action agency" has the same meaning as provided  
32 in section 17b-885 of the general statutes.

33 (b) Not later than October 1, 2015, the Department of Social Services  
34 shall, in consultation with the Energy Conservation Management  
35 Board, established in section 16-245m of the general statutes, and the  
36 Low-Income Energy Advisory Board, established in section 16a-41b of  
37 the general statutes, create an energy assistance and conservation  
38 application. Said application's purpose is to consolidate all energy  
39 assistance programs and energy conservation programs into a single  
40 application form and to enable applicants to apply for both energy  
41 assistance programs and energy conservation programs  
42 simultaneously. The energy assistance and conservation application  
43 shall include, but not be limited to, the following programs: (1) The

44 Connecticut energy assistance program, pursuant to the Low Income  
45 Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, (2) the contingency heating  
46 assistance program, (3) the state appropriated fuel assistance program,  
47 (4) the Home Energy Solutions program, (5) the Home Energy  
48 Solutions - Income Eligible program, (6) the Home Performance with  
49 Energy Star program, and (7) the weatherization assistance program,  
50 established in section 17b-801 of the general statutes.

51 (c) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Social Services  
52 shall, in consultation with electric distribution companies, gas  
53 companies and community action agencies, create, develop and launch  
54 an Internet web site that permits applicants to register and complete an  
55 energy assistance and conservation application from any location that  
56 has Internet access. A hyperlink to the energy assistance and  
57 conservation application Internet web site shall be made available by  
58 the Department of Social Services, the Department of Energy and  
59 Environmental Protection, each electric distribution company, each gas  
60 company and each community action agency, on their respective  
61 Internet web sites.

62 (1) The back end of the energy assistance and conservation  
63 application Internet web site is the portion of the web site that is only  
64 accessible by the Department of Social Services, electric distribution  
65 companies and gas companies and community action agencies. The  
66 back end of such Internet web site shall serve as a database and an  
67 electronic record and filing storage space where each registered energy  
68 assistance and conservation applicant's application is stored.

69 (2) The back end of such Internet web site shall be programmed to  
70 send out simultaneous application alerts (A) to the office or offices of  
71 the Department of Social Services that screen and review energy  
72 assistance program applications, and (B) to the office or offices of  
73 electric distribution companies and gas companies that screen and  
74 review energy conservation program applications, whenever a new  
75 energy assistance and conservation application is received on the

76 database. A copy of each such application shall be sent to the  
77 reviewing offices as an electronic attachment to the alert.

78 (3) Each electric distribution company and gas company that screens  
79 and reviews energy conservation program applications shall verify  
80 whether an applicant's home or dwelling unit has previously received  
81 energy conservation services by means of an energy conservation  
82 program. Applicant records on the energy assistance and conservation  
83 application database shall indicate what energy conservation program  
84 an applicant's home or dwelling unit has benefited from.

85 (4) Community action agencies shall accept hard copy and  
86 electronic versions of energy assistance and conservation application  
87 forms. Community action agencies shall scan each hard copy  
88 application into the energy assistance and conservation application  
89 database. After the application is scanned and submitted by the  
90 community action agency, a simultaneous alert shall be sent to the  
91 application screening and reviewing offices of the Department of  
92 Social Services and the electric distribution companies and gas  
93 companies, with an electronic version of such application attached.  
94 Community action agencies shall not require that applicants complete  
95 hard copy applications. Community action agencies shall promote and  
96 encourage applicants to complete the energy assistance and  
97 conservation application electronically on such Internet web site.

98 (5) Funding for the creation, development and launch of the energy  
99 assistance and conservation application Internet web site and database  
100 shall be made available through the conservation and load  
101 management program charge on electric distribution company  
102 customer electric bills, federal block grants and other funding when  
103 available.

104 (d) Upon approval of an energy assistance and conservation  
105 application, a tenant-applicant shall receive oral and written  
106 explanations of his or her right to implement energy conservation  
107 measures pursuant to section 47a-13a of the general statutes.

108 (1) Written notice shall be sent, at no expense to the tenant-  
109 applicant, to the tenant-applicant's landlord pursuant to section 47a-  
110 13a of the general statutes by the electric distribution company or gas  
111 company administering the tenant-applicant's energy conservation  
112 program. Such electric distribution company or gas company shall be  
113 reimbursed through the conservation and load management program  
114 charge.

115 (2) No community action agency, electric distribution company or  
116 gas company shall require a tenant-applicant to have his or her  
117 landlord complete an owner's permission statement prior to  
118 participating in an energy conservation program.

119 (e) Each electric distribution company and gas company  
120 administering, accepting, screening and reviewing applications for  
121 energy conservation programs shall prioritize the facilitation and  
122 performance of energy conservation audits and services for applicants  
123 eligible for the Home Energy Solutions - Income Eligible program over  
124 other energy conservation program applicants.

125 (f) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Energy and  
126 Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the Energy  
127 Conservation Management Board, determine what measures of  
128 improvement can be made to eliminate the Home Energy Solutions -  
129 Income Eligible program application backlog. Not later than July 1,  
130 2016, the department shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
131 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding such  
132 measures to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
133 having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology.

134 Sec. 2. Section 16a-46k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
135 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

136 [On or before July 1, 2014] (a) Not later than October 1, 2015, the  
137 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in  
138 consultation with the Energy Conservation Management Board and

139 the Department of Housing, develop weatherization standards and  
140 procedures for properties participating in the rental assistance  
141 program, including, but not limited to, a consideration to expedite  
142 scheduling of an energy efficiency audit pursuant to this section. Not  
143 later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Energy and  
144 Environmental Protection shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
145 provisions of section 11-4a, regarding such weatherization standards  
146 and procedures to the joint standing committee of the General  
147 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and  
148 technology.

149 (b) When a tenant secures or renews a lease under the rental  
150 assistance program on or after [the effective date such weatherization  
151 standards and procedures are adopted] October 1, 2015, the landlord  
152 shall (1) schedule an energy efficiency audit administered by the Home  
153 Energy Solutions program or a program deemed comparable by the  
154 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for the  
155 property, and (2) complete the installation of free weatherization  
156 measures pursuant to a program described in subdivision (1) of this  
157 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	16a-46k

**Statement of Purpose:**

To improve the efficiency of home heating assistance and home energy audit programs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

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