



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 dwelling unit 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 shall be to consolidate all
39 energy assistance programs and energy conservation programs into a
40 single application form and to enable applicants to apply for both
41 energy 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, gas companies and community action agencies. The back
66 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 Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a)(8), the order of the words "unit" and "dwelling" was reversed for consistency, in Section 1(c)(1), a comma was added and the word "and" deleted for accuracy, and in Section 1(b) the word "is" was deleted and replaced with the phrase "shall be" for accuracy.

ET *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*