



Senate Bill 334

An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Energy and Technology Related Statutes

Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Department of Administrative Services

Energy & Technology Committee
March 10, 2016

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) offers the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 334, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Energy and Technology Related Statutes, specifically, sections 1, 4, and 6-19.

Sections 1 and 4 of Senate Bill 334 relate to the procurement of electricity for state agencies. Sections 1 is simply a conforming change that recognizes that the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), not the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), is the agency responsible for operating the purchasing pool for electricity for state operations pursuant to C.G.S. §16a-14e, as amended by this act.

Section 4 simplifies the requirements relating to the purchasing pool for electricity, thereby, streamlining the procurement of that electricity. This section also eliminates the requirement that DEEP solicit proposals relating to the competitive procurement of electricity, thus, giving the responsibility of administering that competitive process back to DAS. Under Senate Bill 334, DEEP will operate the pool, and DAS, which is responsible for procuring goods and services for state agencies, will administer the purchasing. We believe these technical changes will improve the State's procurement of electricity and we are happy to offer our support to those efforts.

Section 6 repeals the provisions of C.G.S. §16a-38, that require DAS and DEEP to create energy performance standards and require DAS to conduct life-cycle costs analyses of state owned and leased buildings. Section 7 through 20 simply make conforming changes by eliminating references to the life-cycle cost analysis required under C.G.S. §16a-38. This mandate, which was adopted in the 1970's, has been superseded by

energy efficiency requirements codified in the State Building Code and the High Performance Building statutes and regulations.

Specifically, the State Building Code currently sets minimum requirements for energy efficiency for all building projects in the State in the International Energy Conservation Code portion of the State Building Code. Moreover, the High Performance Building Regulations (HPBR) adopted in accordance with C.G.S. § 16a-38k establish stringent efficiency requirements for all large State-funded new construction and renovation projects. The HPBR require a demonstration of cost-effectiveness through comparative modeling of alternate systems' performance via software support by the federal Department of Energy. This modeling is similar to a life-cycle cost analysis and renders the life-cycle cost analysis unnecessary.

DAS thanks DEEP for bringing this bill forward and the Committee for the opportunity to provide comment in support of Senate Bill 334.