



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 460

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5309

House of Representatives, April 5, 2016

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. REED of the 102nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FACILITATION OF THE MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL SOLAR APPLICATION PROCESS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 16-245nn of the 2016 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Residential solar photovoltaic system" means equipment and
6 devices that have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and
7 generating electricity by photovoltaic effect, have a nameplate capacity
8 rating of twelve kilowatts or less, are installed on the roof of a single-
9 family home and conform to the Connecticut State Building Code;

10 (2) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated
11 town and city or consolidated town and borough;

12 (3) "Electronic submission" means the act of a permit applicant who

13 submits his or her completed application to a municipality for review
14 by means of electronic mail, facsimile or electronic application
15 available on a municipality's Internet web site.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, each municipality shall
17 incorporate residential solar photovoltaic systems in its building
18 permit application process or utilize a residential solar photovoltaic
19 system permit application supplement. In furtherance of such
20 requirement, any municipality may choose to adopt the standardized
21 solar photovoltaic permit application form approved by the
22 Connecticut Green Bank, as described in subsection (g) of this section,
23 for this purpose. Each municipality may (1) develop and post on the
24 municipality's Internet web site a permit application for the installation
25 of a residential solar photovoltaic system, (2) allow for electronic
26 submission of such application, and (3) exempt such system from
27 payment of permit fees pursuant to subsection (c) of section 29-263.

28 (c) Not more than thirty days after receipt of a permit application, a
29 municipality shall inform such permit applicant whether such
30 application is approved or disapproved.

31 (d) In conducting inspections of work completed pursuant to a
32 residential solar photovoltaic system permit, a local building official
33 may use additional resources as described in the International
34 Residential Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code.
35 Inspections shall be performed pursuant to said International
36 Residential Code portion of the Connecticut State Building Code.

37 (e) Nothing in this section shall authorize any person to cause any
38 home or structure located within a historic district established
39 pursuant to section 7-147b to be altered, as defined in section 7-147a.

40 (f) Not later than December 1, 2015, the Connecticut Green Bank, in
41 consultation with the office of the State Building Inspector, shall plan,
42 implement and host five residential solar photovoltaic system permit
43 training seminars, in different municipalities for the purpose of
44 providing guidance and information to municipal officials developing

45 a permitting process in accordance with this section. The Connecticut
 46 Green Bank may consult with the Connecticut Conference of
 47 Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the
 48 Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association and any other
 49 organization or representative of such organization in the planning
 50 and implementation of the training seminars.

51 (g) Not later than December 1, 2016, the Connecticut Green Bank, in
 52 consultation with the State Building Inspector, shall approve a
 53 standardized solar photovoltaic system permit application form for all
 54 solar photovoltaic systems, including, but not limited to, residential
 55 solar photovoltaic systems. Not later than January 1, 2017, the
 56 Connecticut Green Bank shall: (1) Inform each municipality that such
 57 standardized form is available, and (2) post such standardized form on
 58 the Connecticut Green Bank's Internet web site for adoption by any
 59 such municipality.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	16-245nn

ET *Joint Favorable*

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.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which requires the Connecticut Green Bank, in consultation with the state building inspector, to approve a standardized solar photovoltaic (PV) system permit application for all solar PV systems, has no fiscal impact as it codifies current practice by the Green Bank.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5309*****AN ACT CONCERNING FACILITATION OF THE MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL SOLAR APPLICATION PROCESS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Connecticut Green Bank, in consultation with the state building inspector, to approve a standardized solar photovoltaic (PV) system permit application for all solar PV systems by December 1, 2016. By law, municipalities were required to incorporate residential solar PV systems in their building permit application process or use a residential PV system permit application supplement by January 1, 2016. The bill allows municipalities to adopt the standardized PV system permit application approved by the Green Bank to meet this requirement.

Under the bill, by January 1, 2017, the Green Bank must (1) inform each municipality that its standardized form is available and (2) post the form on its website for adoption by any municipality.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/17/2016)