



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 461

February Session, 2016

Substitute House Bill No. 5310

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 substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LOCATION OF SITING COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 16-50m of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2016*):

4 (a) The council shall promptly fix a commencement date and
5 location for a public hearing on an application for a certificate
6 complying with section 16-50l not less than thirty days after receipt of
7 an application or more than one hundred fifty days after such receipt.
8 [At] If the proposed facility is to be located only in one municipality,
9 the community participation portion of not less than one session of
10 such hearing shall be held at a location, selected by the council, in the
11 municipality in which the facility is to be located after six-thirty p.m.
12 for the convenience of the general public. After holding not less than
13 one hearing session in the municipality in which the facility is to be
14 located, the council may, in its discretion, hold additional hearing

15 sessions at other locations. If the proposed facility is to be located in
16 more than one municipality, at least one session of such hearing shall
17 be held at a location selected by the council in the county in which the
18 facility or any part thereof is to be located after six-thirty p.m. for the
19 convenience of the general public. After holding at least one hearing
20 session in the county in which the facility or any part thereof is to be
21 located, the council may, in its discretion, hold additional hearing
22 sessions at other locations. If the proposed facility is to be located in
23 more than one county, the council shall fix the location for at least one
24 public hearing session in whichever county it determines is most
25 appropriate, provided the council may hold hearing sessions in more
26 than one county.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	16-50m(a)

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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

This bill, which requires the Connecticut Siting Council when considering an application to site a facility in only one municipality to hold a public hearing at a council-selected site in that municipality, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5310*****AN ACT CONCERNING LOCATION OF SITING COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Connecticut Siting Council, when considering an application to site a facility in only one municipality, to hold the community participation portion of at least one public hearing at a council-selected site in that municipality. This portion of the hearing must be held after 6:30 p.m. for the public's convenience. After holding at least one hearing session in the municipality, the council may hold additional hearing sessions at other locations at its discretion. Current law requires the council to hold at least one hearing session in the proposed facility's county after 6:30 p.m. The bill limits this requirement to applications for facilities located in multiple municipalities.

The law requires developers to obtain Siting Council certificates before building or modifying a variety of energy and telecommunications facilities. The council must hold public hearings on their applications and, generally, can grant a certificate only if it finds a public need for the facility that outweighs the environmental harm the facility may cause.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/17/2016)