Senate

General Assembly

File No. 471

January Session, 2017

Senate Bill No. 536

Senate, April 6, 2017

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist. and SEN. FORMICA of the 20th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A STATE-WIDE PLAN AND PROCESS FOR SITING SMALL CELL ANTENNA AND DISTRIBUTED ANTENNA SYSTEMS.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Small cell" means low-powered wireless base stations; and

(2) "Distributed antenna system" means a network of spatially separated antenna nodes connected to a common source via a transport medium that provides wireless service within a geographic area or structure.

(b) On or before January 1, 2018, the Connecticut Siting Council shall develop a state-wide plan for siting small cell antenna and distributed antenna systems. Such plan shall include a process for siting small cell antenna and distributed antenna systems. Such process shall include participation of the municipality in which the

small cell antenna or distributed antenna system is proposed to be sited.

(c) On or before January 1, 2018, the Connecticut Siting Council shall submit such plan to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to technology. Not later than thirty days after receipt of the plan, the committee shall either disapprove, approve or approve with amendments to the plan, provided if the committee takes no action within thirty days of receipt of the plan, the plan shall be deemed approved.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2017*	New section

ET *Joint Favorable*

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 18 $	FY 19 $
Siting Council, CT	CC&PUCF - Cost	100,000	None

Note: CC&PUCF=Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Connecticut Siting Council to develop a state-wide plan for siting small cell antenna and distributed antenna systems by January 1, 2018.

As the Siting Council currently does not have expertise required for drafting this plan, outside consultants would have to be hired at an estimated one-time cost of approximately $100,000 in FY 18.

The Out Years

There are no annualized ongoing fiscal impacts as the plan would be drafted by FY 18.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB00536

AN ACT CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A STATE-WIDE PLAN AND PROCESS FOR SITING SMALL CELL ANTENNA AND DISTRIBUTED ANTENNA SYSTEMS.

SUMMARY

By January 1, 2018, this bill requires the Connecticut Siting Council to develop a statewide plan and process for siting small cell antenna and distributed antenna systems and submit it to the Energy and Technology Committee. The process must include participation by the municipality where the proposed site will be located. Within 30 days after receiving the plan, the committee must approve it, approve it with amendments, or disapprove it. If the committee takes no action by the deadline, the plan is deemed approved.

Under the bill, a "small cell" is a low-powered wireless base station and a "distributed antenna system" is a network of spatially separated antenna nodes connected to a common source via a transport medium that provides wireless service within a geographic area or structure. Generally, both small cell antenna and distributed antenna systems are used by telecommunications companies to facilitate or supplement wireless coverage in a geographic area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 16 Nay 8 (03/21/2017)