



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY

FACT SHEET
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 7 – AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING AND
RESILIENCY

REASON FOR PROPOSAL:

The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) provides analytical expertise and sound science for policymakers and other stakeholders, offering reasonable solutions to the complicated but solvable problem of climate change. CIRCA's expertise includes the natural sciences, engineering, economics, political science, finance and law. In accordance with its charge in CGS Section 25-68o, CIRCA has **projected a rise in sea level of approximately 20 inches by 2050**. Statutory changes are necessary to ensure the success of future projects undertaken in the state, the prudence of our investments, and the safety of those residing on or near the shoreline. In addition to preparations for the imminent rise in sea level, this proposal **sets an interim target of a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030**, ensuring Connecticut remains on a path to achieve an 80% reduction¹ of GHG emissions by 2050 as mandated under the Global Warming Solutions Act.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:

In response to the projected sea level rise, this proposal seeks to prepare Connecticut by updating the following to allow for safe planning, prudent investment, successful projects and accurate mapping:

- Update current statutory references to sea level rise to reflect CIRCA's projections of approximately two feet by 2050.
- Require all future state **projects** located in the Coastal Boundary that are either undertaken by a state agency or funded by a state/federal grant or loan to meet CIRCA's projections
- Update Connecticut coastal boundary **maps** to move the boundary landward distance represented by the approximate two feet in sea level rise

¹ According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 80% reduction by 2050 is the level that ensures that no more than a 2 degree Celsius increase in global temperature occurs

In order to continue to ensure that the state achieves the 80% reduction of GHGs required by the GWSA this proposal will implement:

- An interim target to reduce GHG emissions 45% from a 2001 baseline by 2030 as recommended by the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

In order to integrate climate reduction strategies into state energy planning, this proposal will also provide a clear statutory link between GHG reduction requirements and energy planning.

- Permanent status of the Governor's Council on Climate Change as the *Connecticut Council on Climate Change*
- A four year cycle for preparation of a *Comprehensive Climate and Energy Strategy* by DEEP to guide the state's energy policy to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements

ADDITIONAL PLANNING & PREPARATION:

In addition to the identified statutory changes, the bill requires the following to continue to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change:

- Municipal planning
 - Municipal planning commissions shall adapt or amend municipal coastal boundaries to reflect CIRCA's projection of a rise of 2 feet in sea level rise
- Flood-proofing
 - Adjust freeboard (safety factor above calculated flood level) an additional two feet above base flood

CONNECTICUT'S ACTIONS ADDRESSING CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT:

Connecticut's climate and energy policies have transformed since 2011 with the Governor's leadership and the creation of DEEP. Most notably, GHG emissions reduction has become a central driver of energy policy. Through the creation of CIRCA, Connecticut is leading the nation in developing the best available scientific analysis to prepare for climate change.

Now is the time to ensure that sound, science-based policymaking will continue in Connecticut by strengthening climate, energy, and coastal and flood management statutes.

Contact Person: Bill Welz
Office of the Governor
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Telephone: (860) 524-7364