OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 5318

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LOCAL REPRESENTATION ON THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires, for any Connecticut Siting Council proceeding involving an electric distribution company (i.e., Eversource or United Illuminating), the council membership to include an elector of the municipality where a facility is being proposed. The elector is appointed by the municipality’s chief elected official.

Under the bill, if a proposed facility will be located in more than one municipality, the council membership must include an elector appointed by the applicable regional council of governments for the affected municipalities.

In both situations, the bill requires the elector to (1) serve as a nonvoting member and (2) abide by all applicable confidentiality rules.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Current Connecticut Siting Council Membership

For energy and telecommunications proceedings, the Connecticut Siting Council consists of the following members:

1. the energy and environmental protection commissioner or her designee;

2. the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority chairperson or the chairperson’s designee;

3. one designee each of the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore; and
4. five members of the public appointed by the governor.

At least two of the public members must have ecology experience, and only one may have an affiliation, past or present with a utility; utility regulatory agency; or person owning, operating, controlling, or contracting with a facility, a hazardous waste facility, or an ash residue disposal area.

By law, public members of the council must be compensated for their attendance at public hearings, executive sessions, or other council business at the rate of $200 per activity, but capped at $200 per day.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea  28  Nay  0  (03/08/2019)