



General Assembly

**Amendment**

September Special Session, 2020

LCO No. 4496



Offered by:  
SEN. SAMPSON, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 7006

File No.

Cal. No.

**"AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES, THE REGULATION OF OTHER PUBLIC UTILITIES AND NEXUS PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN DISASTER-RELATED OR EMERGENCY-RELATED WORK PERFORMED IN THE STATE."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subsection (a) of section 16-2 of the 2020 supplement to the  
4 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
5 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2021*):

6 (a) There shall continue to be a Public Utilities Regulatory Authority  
7 within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for  
8 administrative purposes only, which shall consist of five electors of this  
9 state, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of both  
10 houses of the General Assembly. Not more than three members of said  
11 authority in office at any one time shall be members of any one political  
12 party. The Governor shall appoint five members to the authority. The

13 procedure prescribed in section 4-7 shall apply to such appointments,  
14 except that the Governor shall submit each nomination on or before May  
15 first, and both houses shall confirm or reject it before adjournment sine  
16 die. Any utility commissioner appointed by the Governor and  
17 confirmed by both chambers of the General Assembly between  
18 February 1, 2019, and June 1, 2019, shall serve a term expiring on March  
19 1, 2024. Any utility commissioner appointed by the Governor and  
20 confirmed by both houses of the General Assembly between February  
21 1, 2018, and June 1, 2018, shall serve a term expiring on March 1, 2022.  
22 Between July 1, 2019, and May 1, 2020, the Governor shall appoint three  
23 utility commissioners, provided one such commissioner shall serve a  
24 term expiring on March 1, 2021, and two such commissioners shall serve  
25 terms expiring on March 1, 2023. Any utility commissioner appointed  
26 on or after May 1, 2020, shall serve a term of four years. The utility  
27 commissioners shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties.

28 Sec. 502. Subsection (f) of section 16-2 of the 2020 supplement to the  
29 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
30 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2021*):

31 (f) (1) The chairperson of the [authority, with the approval of the  
32 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,] Public  
33 Utilities Regulatory Authority shall prescribe the duties of the staff  
34 assigned to the authority in order to (A) conduct comprehensive  
35 planning with respect to the functions of the authority; (B) cause the  
36 administrative organization of the authority to be examined with a view  
37 to promoting economy and efficiency; and (C) organize the authority  
38 into such divisions, bureaus or other units as necessary for the efficient  
39 conduct of the business of the authority. [and may from time to time  
40 make recommendations to the Commissioner of Energy and  
41 Environmental Protection regarding staff and resources.]

42 (2) The chairperson of the [Public Utilities Regulatory Authority]  
43 authority, in order to implement the comprehensive planning and  
44 organizational structure established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
45 subsection, shall (A) coordinate the activities of the authority and

46 prescribe the duties of the staff assigned to the authority; (B) for any  
47 proceeding on a proposed rate amendment in which staff of the  
48 authority are to be made a party pursuant to section 16-19j, determine  
49 which staff shall appear and participate in the proceedings and which  
50 shall serve the members of the authority; (C) enter into such contractual  
51 agreements, in accordance with established procedures, as may be  
52 necessary for the discharge of the authority's duties; (D) subject to the  
53 provisions of section 4-32, and unless otherwise provided by law,  
54 receive any money, revenue or services from the federal government,  
55 corporations, associations or individuals, including payments from the  
56 sale of printed matter or any other material or services; and (E) require  
57 the staff of the authority to have expertise in public utility engineering  
58 and accounting, finance, economics, computers and rate design.

59 Sec. 503. Section 4-67e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2021*):

61 The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
62 coordinate the activity of the Commissioner of Public Health, [and] the  
63 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and the  
64 chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in the  
65 following: (1) The review of the authority of each agency for consistency  
66 with the policies established by section 22a-380, (2) the preparation of a  
67 memorandum of understanding, not more than six months after  
68 October 1, 1991, intended to avoid inconsistency, overlap and  
69 redundancy in requirements and authority of each agency in water  
70 conservation issues, emergency contingency plans and regulatory  
71 authority under chapters 283, 446i, 446j and 474, (3) the review of  
72 exercise of regulatory authority over water companies, as defined in  
73 section 25-32a, to determine whether inconsistency, overlap or  
74 redundancy exist in the statutory requirements or regulatory authority  
75 of such agencies under chapters 283, 446i, 446j, and 474, (4) the  
76 assessment of the necessity of a memorandum of understanding to  
77 avoid such inconsistency, overlap or redundancy, and, if determined to  
78 be necessary, the preparation of such a memorandum by July 1, 1995,  
79 and (5) the development of recommendations for legislation and

80 amendments to regulations to implement the provisions of a  
81 memorandum of understanding prepared pursuant to this section, or  
82 for consistency with the policies established by section 22a-380. There  
83 shall be a period of public review and comment on a memorandum of  
84 understanding prior to final agreement. On or before January 1, 1995,  
85 the secretary shall submit to the joint standing committees of the  
86 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
87 health, energy and public utilities and the environment, written  
88 findings, and any recommendations, concerning the review and  
89 assessment conducted pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of this  
90 section.

91 Sec. 504. Section 16-6b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
92 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2021*):

93 The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may, in accordance with  
94 chapter 54, adopt such regulations with respect to: (1) Rates and charges,  
95 services, accounting practices, safety and the conduct of operations  
96 generally of public service companies subject to its jurisdiction as it  
97 deems reasonable and necessary; (2) services, accounting practices,  
98 safety and the conduct of operations generally of electric suppliers  
99 subject to its jurisdiction as it deems reasonable and necessary; and (3)  
100 standards for systems utilizing cogeneration technology and renewable  
101 fuel resources. [, in accordance with the Department of Energy and  
102 Environmental Protection's policies.]

103 Sec. 505. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 16-245m of the general  
104 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
105 (*Effective January 1, 2021*):

106 (c) The [Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection]  
107 chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall appoint  
108 and convene an Energy Conservation Management Board which shall  
109 include the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or  
110 the commissioner's designee, the Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer  
111 Counsel's designee, the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's

112 designee, and a representative of: (1) An environmental group  
113 knowledgeable in energy conservation program collaboratives; (2) the  
114 electric distribution companies in whose territories the activities take  
115 place for such programs; (3) a state-wide manufacturing association; (4)  
116 a chamber of commerce; (5) a state-wide business association; (6) a state-  
117 wide retail organization; (7) a state-wide farm association; (8) a  
118 municipal electric energy cooperative created pursuant to chapter 101a;  
119 and (9) residential customers. The board shall also include two  
120 representatives selected by the gas companies. The members of the  
121 board shall serve for a period of five years and may be reappointed.  
122 Representatives of gas companies, electric distribution companies and  
123 the municipal electric energy cooperative shall be nonvoting members  
124 of the board. The members of the board shall elect a chairperson from  
125 its voting members. If any vote of the board results in an equal division  
126 of its voting members, such vote shall fail.

127 (d) (1) Not later than November 1, 2012, and every three years  
128 thereafter, electric distribution companies, as defined in section 16-1, in  
129 coordination with the gas companies, as defined in section 16-1, shall  
130 submit to the Energy Conservation Management Board a combined  
131 electric and gas Conservation and Load Management Plan, in  
132 accordance with the provisions of this section, to implement cost-  
133 effective energy conservation programs, demand management and  
134 market transformation initiatives. All supply and conservation and load  
135 management options shall be evaluated and selected within an  
136 integrated supply and demand planning framework. Services provided  
137 under the plan shall be available to all customers of electric distribution  
138 companies and gas companies, provided a customer of an electric  
139 distribution company may not be denied such services based on the fuel  
140 such customer uses to heat such customer's home. The Energy  
141 Conservation Management Board shall advise and assist the electric  
142 distribution companies and gas companies in the development of such  
143 plan. The Energy Conservation Management Board shall approve the  
144 plan before transmitting it to the [Commissioner of Energy and  
145 Environmental Protection] Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for

146 approval. The [commissioner] authority shall, in an uncontested  
147 proceeding during which the [commissioner] authority may hold a  
148 public meeting, approve, modify or reject said plan prepared pursuant  
149 to this subsection. Following approval by the [commissioner] authority,  
150 the board shall assist the companies in implementing the plan and  
151 collaborate with the Connecticut Green Bank to further the goals of the  
152 plan. Said plan shall include a detailed budget sufficient to fund all  
153 energy efficiency that is cost-effective or lower cost than acquisition of  
154 equivalent supply, and shall be reviewed and approved by the  
155 [commissioner] authority. The [Public Utilities Regulatory Authority]  
156 authority shall, not later than sixty days after the plan is approved, [by  
157 the commissioner,] ensure that the balance of revenues required to fund  
158 such plan is provided through fully reconciling conservation  
159 adjustment mechanisms. Electric distribution companies shall collect a  
160 conservation adjustment mechanism that ensures the plan is fully  
161 funded by collecting an amount that is not more than the sum of six  
162 mills per kilowatt hour of electricity sold to each end use customer of an  
163 electric distribution company during the three years of any  
164 Conservation and Load Management Plan. The authority shall ensure  
165 that the revenues required to fund such plan with regard to gas  
166 companies are provided through a fully reconciling conservation  
167 adjustment mechanism for each gas company of not more than the  
168 equivalent of four and six-tenth cents per hundred cubic feet during the  
169 three years of any Conservation and Load Management Plan. Said plan  
170 shall include steps that would be needed to achieve the goal of  
171 weatherization of eighty per cent of the state's residential units by 2030  
172 and to reduce energy consumption by 1.6 million MMBtu, or the  
173 equivalent megawatts of electricity, as defined in subdivision (4) of  
174 section 22a-197, annually each year for calendar years commencing on  
175 and after January 1, 2020, up to and including calendar year 2025. Each  
176 program contained in the plan shall be reviewed by such companies and  
177 accepted, modified or rejected by the Energy Conservation  
178 Management Board prior to submission to the [commissioner] authority  
179 for approval. The Energy Conservation Management Board shall, as  
180 part of its review, examine opportunities to offer joint programs

181 providing similar efficiency measures that save more than one fuel  
182 resource or otherwise to coordinate programs targeted at saving more  
183 than one fuel resource. Any costs for joint programs shall be allocated  
184 equitably among the conservation programs. The Energy Conservation  
185 Management Board shall give preference to projects that maximize the  
186 reduction of federally mandated congestion charges.

187 (2) There shall be a joint committee of the Energy Conservation  
188 Management Board and the board of directors of the Connecticut Green  
189 Bank. The boards shall each appoint members to such joint committee.  
190 The joint committee shall examine opportunities to coordinate the  
191 programs and activities funded by the Clean Energy Fund pursuant to  
192 section 16-245n with the programs and activities contained in the plan  
193 developed under this subsection and to provide financing to increase  
194 the benefits of programs funded by the plan so as to reduce the long-  
195 term cost, environmental impacts and security risks of energy in the  
196 state. Such joint committee shall hold its first meeting on or before  
197 August 1, 2005.

198 (3) Programs included in the plan developed under subdivision (1) of  
199 this subsection shall be screened through cost-effectiveness testing that  
200 compares the value and payback period of program benefits for all  
201 energy savings to program costs to ensure that programs are designed  
202 to obtain energy savings and system benefits, including mitigation of  
203 federally mandated congestion charges, whose value is greater than the  
204 costs of the programs. Program cost-effectiveness shall be reviewed by  
205 the [Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection] authority  
206 annually, or otherwise as is practicable, and shall incorporate the results  
207 of the evaluation process set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection.  
208 If a program is determined to fail the cost-effectiveness test as part of  
209 the review process, it shall either be modified to meet the test or shall be  
210 terminated, unless it is integral to other programs that in combination  
211 are cost-effective. On or before March 1, 2005, and on or before March  
212 first annually thereafter, the board shall provide a report, in accordance  
213 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of  
214 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy

215 and the environment that documents (A) expenditures and fund  
216 balances and evaluates the cost-effectiveness of such programs  
217 conducted in the preceding year, and (B) the extent to and manner in  
218 which the programs of such board collaborated and cooperated with  
219 programs, established under section 7-233y, of municipal electric energy  
220 cooperatives. To maximize the reduction of federally mandated  
221 congestion charges, programs in the plan may allow for  
222 disproportionate allocations between the amount of contributions  
223 pursuant to this section by a certain rate class and the programs that  
224 benefit such a rate class. Before conducting such evaluation, the board  
225 shall consult with the board of directors of the Connecticut Green Bank.  
226 The report shall include a description of the activities undertaken  
227 during the reporting period.

228 (4) The [Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection]  
229 chairperson of the authority shall adopt an independent,  
230 comprehensive program evaluation, measurement and verification  
231 process to ensure the Energy Conservation Management Board's  
232 programs are administered appropriately and efficiently, comply with  
233 statutory requirements, programs and measures are cost effective,  
234 evaluation reports are accurate and issued in a timely manner,  
235 evaluation results are appropriately and accurately taken into account  
236 in program development and implementation, and information  
237 necessary to meet any third-party evaluation requirements is provided.  
238 An annual schedule and budget for evaluations as determined by the  
239 board shall be included in the plan filed with the [commissioner]  
240 authority pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. The electric  
241 distribution and gas company representatives and the representative of  
242 a municipal electric energy cooperative may not vote on board plans,  
243 budgets, recommendations, actions or decisions regarding such process  
244 or its program evaluations and their implementation. Program and  
245 measure evaluation, measurement and verification shall be conducted  
246 on an ongoing basis, with emphasis on impact and process evaluations,  
247 programs or measures that have not been studied, and those that  
248 account for a relatively high percentage of program spending.

249 Evaluations shall use statistically valid monitoring and data collection  
250 techniques appropriate for the programs or measures being evaluated.  
251 All evaluations shall contain a description of any problems encountered  
252 in the process of the evaluation, including, but not limited to, data  
253 collection issues, and recommendations regarding addressing those  
254 problems in future evaluations. The board shall contract with one or  
255 more consultants not affiliated with the board members to act as an  
256 evaluation administrator, advising the board regarding development of  
257 a schedule and plans for evaluations and overseeing the program  
258 evaluation, measurement and verification process on behalf of the  
259 board. Consistent with board processes and approvals and the  
260 [Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection's] authority's  
261 decisions regarding evaluation, such evaluation administrator shall  
262 implement the evaluation process by preparing requests for proposals  
263 and selecting evaluation contractors to perform program and measure  
264 evaluations and by facilitating communications between evaluation  
265 contractors and program administrators to ensure accurate and  
266 independent evaluations. In the evaluation administrator's discretion  
267 and at his or her request, the electric distribution and gas companies  
268 shall communicate with the evaluation administrator for purposes of  
269 data collection, vendor contract administration, and providing  
270 necessary factual information during the course of evaluations. The  
271 evaluation administrator shall bring unresolved administrative issues  
272 or problems that arise during the course of an evaluation to the board  
273 for resolution, but shall have sole authority regarding substantive and  
274 implementation decisions regarding any evaluation. Board members,  
275 including electric distribution and gas company representatives, may  
276 not communicate with an evaluation contractor about an ongoing  
277 evaluation except with the express permission of the evaluation  
278 administrator, which may only be granted if the administrator believes  
279 the communication will not compromise the independence of the  
280 evaluation. The evaluation administrator shall file evaluation reports  
281 with the board and with the [Commissioner of Energy and  
282 Environmental Protection] authority in its most recent uncontested  
283 proceeding pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and the board

284 shall post a copy of each report on its Internet web site. The board and  
285 its members, including electric distribution and gas company  
286 representatives, may file written comments regarding any evaluation  
287 with the [commissioner] authority or for posting on the board's Internet  
288 web site. Within fourteen days of the filing of any evaluation report, the  
289 [commissioner] authority, members of the board or other interested  
290 persons may request in writing, and the [commissioner] authority shall  
291 conduct, a transcribed technical meeting to review the methodology,  
292 results and recommendations of any evaluation. Participants in any  
293 such transcribed technical meeting shall include the evaluation  
294 administrator, the evaluation contractor and the Office of Consumer  
295 Counsel at its discretion. On or before November 1, 2011, and annually  
296 thereafter, the board shall report to the joint standing committee of the  
297 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy, with  
298 the results and recommendations of completed program evaluations.

299 (5) Programs included in the plan developed under subdivision (1) of  
300 this subsection may include, but not be limited to: (A) Conservation and  
301 load management programs, including programs that benefit low-  
302 income individuals; (B) research, development and commercialization  
303 of products or processes which are more energy-efficient than those  
304 generally available; (C) development of markets for such products and  
305 processes; (D) support for energy use assessment, real-time monitoring  
306 systems, engineering studies and services related to new construction  
307 or major building renovation; (E) the design, manufacture,  
308 commercialization and purchase of energy-efficient appliances and  
309 heating, air conditioning and lighting devices; (F) program planning  
310 and evaluation; (G) indoor air quality programs relating to energy  
311 conservation; (H) joint fuel conservation initiatives programs targeted  
312 at reducing consumption of more than one fuel resource; (I)  
313 conservation of water resources; (J) public education regarding  
314 conservation; and (K) demand-side technology programs  
315 recommended by the Conservation and Load Management Plan.  
316 Support for such programs may be by direct funding, manufacturers'  
317 rebates, sale price and loan subsidies, leases and promotional and

318 educational activities. The Energy Conservation Management Board  
319 shall periodically review contractors to determine whether they are  
320 qualified to conduct work related to such programs and to ensure that  
321 in making the selection of contractors to deliver programs, a fair and  
322 equitable process is followed. There shall be a rebuttable presumption  
323 that such contractors are deemed technically qualified if certified by the  
324 Building Performance Institute, Inc. or by an organization selected by  
325 the commissioner. The plan shall also provide for expenditures by the  
326 board for the retention of expert consultants and reasonable  
327 administrative costs provided such consultants shall not be employed  
328 by, or have any contractual relationship with, an electric distribution  
329 company or a gas company. Such costs shall not exceed five per cent of  
330 the total cost of the plan.

331 Sec. 506. Subsection (l) of section 16-244c of the general statutes is  
332 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
333 *1, 2021*):

334 (l) The authority shall conduct a proceeding to determine the cost of  
335 billing, collection and other services provided by the electric  
336 distribution companies or the department solely for the benefit of  
337 participating electric suppliers and aggregators. The [department]  
338 authority shall order an equitable allocation of such costs among electric  
339 suppliers and aggregators. As part of this same proceeding, the  
340 [department] authority shall also determine the costs that the electric  
341 distribution companies incur solely for the benefit of standard service  
342 and last resort service customers. After such determination, the  
343 [department] authority shall allocate and provide for the equitable  
344 recovery of such costs from standard service or last resort service  
345 customers.

346 Sec. 507. Subsection (a) of section 16-244m of the general statutes is  
347 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
348 *1, 2021*):

349 (a) (1) On or before January 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, the

350 procurement manager of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in  
351 consultation with each electric distribution company, and others at the  
352 procurement manager's discretion, including, but not limited to, [the  
353 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,] a municipal  
354 energy cooperative established pursuant to chapter 101a, other than  
355 entities, individuals and companies or their affiliates potentially  
356 involved in bidding on standard service, shall develop a plan for the  
357 procurement of electric generation services and related wholesale  
358 electricity market products that will enable each electric distribution  
359 company to manage a portfolio of contracts to reduce the average cost  
360 of standard service while maintaining standard service cost volatility  
361 within reasonable levels. Each Procurement Plan shall provide for the  
362 competitive solicitation for load-following electric service and may  
363 include a provision for the use of other contracts, including, but not  
364 limited to, contracts for generation or other electricity market products  
365 and financial contracts, and may provide for the use of varying lengths  
366 of contracts. If such plan includes the purchase of full requirements  
367 contracts, it shall include an explanation of why such purchases are in  
368 the best interests of standard service customers.

369 (2) All reasonable costs associated with the development of the  
370 Procurement Plan by the authority shall be recoverable through the  
371 assessment in section 16-49. All electric distribution companies'  
372 reasonable costs associated with the development of the Procurement  
373 Plan shall be recoverable through a reconciling bypassable component  
374 of the electric rates as determined by the authority.

375 Sec. 508. Section 16-2a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
376 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2021*):

377 (a) There shall be an independent Office of Consumer Counsel,  
378 within the [Department of Energy and Environmental Protection]  
379 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, for administrative purposes only,  
380 to act as the advocate for consumer interests in all matters which may  
381 affect Connecticut consumers with respect to public service companies,  
382 electric suppliers and certified telecommunications providers,

383 including, but not limited to, rates and related issues, ratepayer-funded  
384 programs and matters concerning the reliability, maintenance,  
385 operations, infrastructure and quality of service of such companies,  
386 suppliers and providers. The Office of Consumer Counsel is authorized  
387 to appear in and participate in any regulatory or judicial proceedings,  
388 federal or state, in which such interests of Connecticut consumers may  
389 be involved, or in which matters affecting utility services rendered or to  
390 be rendered in this state may be involved. The Office of Consumer  
391 Counsel shall be a party to each contested case before the Public Utilities  
392 Regulatory Authority and shall participate in such proceedings to the  
393 extent it deems necessary. Said Office of Consumer Counsel may appeal  
394 from a decision, order or authorization in any such state regulatory  
395 proceeding notwithstanding its failure to appear or participate in said  
396 proceeding.

397 (b) Except as prohibited by the provisions of section 4-181, the Office  
398 of Consumer Counsel shall have access to the records of the Public  
399 Utilities Regulatory Authority and shall be entitled to call upon the  
400 assistance of the authority's and the [department's] Department of  
401 Energy and Environmental Protection's experts, and shall have the  
402 benefit of all other facilities or information of the authority or  
403 department in carrying out the duties of the Office of Consumer  
404 Counsel, except for such internal documents, information or data as are  
405 not available to parties to the authority's proceedings. The [department]  
406 authority shall provide such space as necessary within the  
407 [department's] authority's quarters for the operation of the Office of  
408 Consumer Counsel, and the [department] authority shall be empowered  
409 to set regulations providing for adequate compensation for the  
410 provision of such office space.

411 (c) There shall be established an Office of State Broadband within the  
412 Office of Consumer Counsel. The Office of State Broadband shall work  
413 to facilitate the availability of broadband access to every state citizen  
414 and to increase access to and the adoption of ultra-high-speed gigabit  
415 capable broadband networks. The Office of Consumer Counsel may  
416 work in collaboration with public and nonprofit entities and state

417 agencies, and may provide advisory assistance to municipalities, local  
418 authorities and private corporations for the purpose of maximizing  
419 opportunities for the expansion of broadband access in the state and  
420 fostering innovative approaches to broadband in the state, including the  
421 procurement of grants for such purpose. The Office of State Broadband  
422 shall include a Broadband Policy Coordinator and such other staff as the  
423 Consumer Counsel deems necessary to perform the duties of the Office  
424 of State Broadband.

425 (d) The Office of Consumer Counsel shall be under the direction of a  
426 Consumer Counsel, who shall be appointed by the Governor with the  
427 advice and consent of either house of the General Assembly. The  
428 Consumer Counsel shall be an elector of this state and shall have  
429 demonstrated a strong commitment and involvement in efforts to  
430 safeguard the rights of the public. The Consumer Counsel shall serve  
431 for a term of five years unless removed pursuant to section 16-5. The  
432 salary of the Consumer Counsel shall be equal to that established for  
433 management pay plan salary group seventy-one by the Commissioner  
434 of Administrative Services. No Consumer Counsel shall, for a period of  
435 one year following the termination of service as Consumer Counsel,  
436 accept employment by a public service company, a certified  
437 telecommunications provider or an electric supplier. No Consumer  
438 Counsel who is also an attorney shall in any capacity, appear or  
439 participate in any matter, or accept any compensation regarding a  
440 matter, before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, for a period of  
441 one year following the termination of service as Consumer Counsel.

442 (e) The Consumer Counsel shall hire such staff as necessary to  
443 perform the duties of said Office of Consumer Counsel and may employ  
444 from time to time outside consultants knowledgeable in the utility  
445 regulation field including, but not limited to, economists, capital cost  
446 experts and rate design experts. The salaries and qualifications of the  
447 individuals so hired shall be determined by the Commissioner of  
448 Administrative Services pursuant to section 4-40.

449 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any party

450 interested in such proceeding or action from appearing in person or  
451 from being represented by counsel therein.

452 (g) As used in this section, "consumer" means any person, city,  
453 borough or town that receives service from any public service company,  
454 electric supplier or from any certified telecommunications provider in  
455 this state whether or not such person, city, borough or town is  
456 financially responsible for such service.

457 (h) The Office of Consumer Counsel shall not be required to post a  
458 bond as a condition to presenting an appeal from any state regulatory  
459 decision, order or authorization.

460 (i) The expenses of the Office of Consumer Counsel shall be assessed  
461 in accordance with the provisions of section 16-49."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	16-2(a)
Sec. 502	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	16-2(f)
Sec. 503	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	4-67e
Sec. 504	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	16-6b
Sec. 505	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	16-245m(c) and (d)
Sec. 506	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	16-244c(l)
Sec. 507	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	16-244m(a)
Sec. 508	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	16-2a