
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 90

AN ACT CONCERNING PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

SUMMARY

Existing law allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to solicit proposals for energy storage projects and authorizes electric distribution companies (EDCs, i.e., Eversource and United Illuminating) to recover from ratepayers any costs associated with an agreement entered into as a result of the solicitation. This bill explicitly authorizes the commissioner to direct the EDCs to enter into agreements associated with selected proposals for periods up to 20 years on behalf of EDC customers.

The bill also requires the DEEP commissioner to submit a report to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 15, 2023, on the environmental impacts of acquiring battery storage component materials and disposing of battery storage technology after its useful life.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except the reporting requirement is effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Storage Procurement

By law, DEEP may issue requests for proposals (RFPs) for energy storage projects connected at the transmission or distribution level that would, when combined with other programs the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) establishes, meet state law's energy storage goals. Projects may include stand-alone energy storage projects or projects paired with (1) Class I renewable energy sources (e.g., wind and solar) or (2) hydropower facilities with a nameplate capacity of up to 100 megawatts. The DEEP commissioner must consider certain

factors when selecting proposals, including whether a proposal is in ratepayers' best interest.

Any agreement entered into as a result of DEEP's selection is subject to PURA's review and approval. EDCs must recover an approved agreement's net costs and credit customers for any net revenues through a fully reconciling rate component on electric ratepayer bills (CGS § 16-243dd).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/22/2022)