

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-372

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GREEN INITIATIVES IN

Title: RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Vote Date: 3/16/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/14/2022

File No.: 190

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To meet our state's energy goals and promote efficiency, this bill requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to encourage the operators of residential facilities under its jurisdiction to adopt standards and practices that will promote energy efficiency in the construction of any new residential facility. This bill also allows such facilities to participate in energy assessment programs offered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Should a facility participate in such a program, it must provide a copy of the assessment report to DDS. Finally, the commissioner of DDS is required by July 1, 2023 to report to the Public Health Committee both the findings of the energy assessment report from these facilities and any recommendations to improve energy efficiency in these facilities.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner, DDS:

DDS supports this bill as a starting point toward the Department's effort to invest in green initiatives. In addition, applying the findings of the DEEP energy assessments and other recommendations will provide DDS with a baseline to increase energy efficient practices in all settings under its jurisdiction. These may include the use of Energy Star rated appliances, LED light bulbs and low-flow faucets and showerheads.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Jeff Shaw, Senior Public Policy Advisory at the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance, (The Alliance):

The Alliance is a statewide advocacy organization representing the nonprofit sector. The Alliance supports the goals of this bill and requests that nonprofit residential service providers be allowed to participate in any State approved energy assessment program. Since the pandemic, demand for nonprofit residential services has increased significantly. To continue to deliver these services, it is important that service providers have a reliable source of capital and infrastructure funding. Currently, nonprofit providers have no way to capitalize for infrastructure projects within their current State contracts and the demand for the Nonprofit Grant Program is always greater than available resources. Nonprofits want to be more energy efficient. The Alliance requests nonprofits be considered eligible for inclusion in energy assessment and conservation programs to help achieve that goal.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None received.

Reported by: Kathleen Panazza

Date: 3/25/22