
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5342 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board's membership by six members. The bill increases, from one to two, the number of community action agency representatives on the board as designated by the Connecticut Association for Community Action. It also adds the following five members:

1. the executive directors of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Center for Children's Advocacy, and Connecticut Green Building Council and
2. two water company representatives designated by the Connecticut Water Works Association.

By law, and under the bill, a water company is generally any entity or entity's lessee that owns, maintains, operates, manages, controls, or employs any pond, lake, reservoir, well, stream, or distributing plant or system that supplies water to two or more consumers (generally, buildings) or 25 or more people on a regular basis (CGS § 25-32a).

The bill also makes a minor change to include on the board the AARP Connecticut state director, rather than its Connecticut president.

By law, the board advises executive branch agencies on developing, planning, implementing, and coordinating energy-assistance-related programs and policies. The board also (1) advises the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on the impacts of utility rates and policies and (2) makes recommendations to the legislature on the administration of the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. Under current law, the board includes at least 18

members, including representatives from (1) executive branch agencies (i.e., DEEP, the Office of Policy and Management, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, and the Department of Social Services); (2) electric and gas utilities; and (3) advocacy and nonprofit organizations (CGS § 16a-41b).

*House Amendment "A" broadens the types of water companies that may be represented on the board to include those described in the statutory definition above rather than only municipal or regional owned water utilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)