

General Law Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1059

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER BILLS AND ESTABLISHING A TASK
FORCE TO STUDY THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

Title: CONSUMER PROTECTION.

Vote Date: 3/3/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/21/2023

File No.: 116

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

General Law Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Some businesses in Connecticut currently give a discount to those who opt out of getting a paper bill and do business electronically. Those who have little to no access to technology or to senior citizens who continue to receive and pay bills by mail are paying premium rates. This task force will study the operations of the Department of Consumer Protection. The report will be no later than January 1, 2024, and findings and recommendations will be submitted to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to protecting consumers.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Senator Bob Duff, Senator Mae Flexer and Senator Martha Marx, State of Connecticut, General Assembly

The Senators support this bill. The Senators state that people who are not technologically savvy are being punished by companies doing business in Connecticut by being charged more than those who receive their bills electronically. This practice impacts those who may not have access to technology and our senior citizens. Residents pay a premium price for receiving their bills in the mail. They also request that companies stop billing their customers the day they cancel their service instead of at the end of their billing cycle.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Assistant Clerk

Date: 3/10/2023

