



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 122

LCO No. 3001



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPLANTING OF TREES IN PUBLIC
AREAS CLEARED BY UTILITY COMPANIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2023,
2 each electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1 of the
3 general statutes, shall establish a municipal vegetation restoration fund
4 that contains not less than two million dollars provided any electric
5 distribution company that has a service area of eighteen or more towns
6 shall establish such a fund with not less than five million dollars. Each
7 electric distribution company shall notify each municipality in the state
8 where such company conducted vegetation management in public areas
9 that consisted of the removal of trees during the previous three-year
10 period of the availability of funds from such municipal vegetation
11 restoration fund for the purpose of planting trees that are of the same
12 types as those removed. Such notifications shall be made not later than
13 September 15, 2023.

14 (b) The tree warden for each municipality that receives a notice
15 pursuant to this section shall, not later than sixty days after receipt of
16 such notice, contact the electric distribution company to provide such

17 company with an estimate of the number and types of trees needed to
18 replace those removed by such company and an estimate of associated
19 costs for the planting of such number of trees. The electric distribution
20 company shall work collaboratively with such tree warden to reach a
21 written agreement, not more than ninety days following contact by the
22 municipal tree warden, on the number and types of trees, and associated
23 planting costs for such trees, to be funded through a grant to such
24 municipality from such electric distribution company's municipal
25 vegetation restoration fund.

26 (c) Not later than sixty days following such written agreement, such
27 electric distribution company shall provide such grant to the
28 municipality. The electric distribution company shall electronically
29 submit a copy of any such written agreement and proof of payment of
30 such grant to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
31 Protection not later than sixty days after such payment. Any
32 municipality that receives a grant pursuant to this section shall expend
33 such grant on the purchase and planting of trees in accordance with
34 such written agreement and shall electronically submit proof of such
35 tree purchases and plantings to the commissioner not later than sixty
36 days following completion of such plantings.

37 (d) Prioritization for issuance of grants pursuant to this section shall
38 be given to municipalities where the greatest number of trees were
39 removed by such electric distribution company during such previous
40 three-year period.

41 (e) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and
42 Environmental Protection, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
43 general statutes, shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of
44 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
45 environment detailing the number of municipalities that received a
46 grant pursuant to this section, the total funds distributed to
47 municipalities pursuant to this section and the approximate number of
48 trees planted pursuant to this section. Such report shall contain any

49 recommendations for the need for additional funds to be designated
50 pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require utility companies to create and administer a fund that distributes money to municipalities for tree planting projects in public areas.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.

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