



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 8797



Offered by:

SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.
SEN. FAZIO, 36th Dist.
SEN. KELLY, 21st Dist.
SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.
SEN. CABRERA, 17th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.
SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.
SEN. GASTON, 23rd Dist.
SEN. HOCHADEL, 13th Dist.
SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.
SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.
SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.
SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.
SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

SEN. MARX, 20th Dist.
SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.
SEN. RAHMAN, 4th Dist.
SEN. SLAP, 5th Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.
SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.
SEN. CICARELLA, 34th Dist.
SEN. GORDON, 35th Dist.
SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.
SEN. HWANG, 28th Dist.
SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist.
SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.
SEN. SEMINARA, 8th Dist.
SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 7

File No. 338

Cal. No. 198

**"AN ACT STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR CONNECTICUT'S
CONSUMERS OF ENERGY."**

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- 1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 16-19tt of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
5 *1, 2023*):

6 (b) In any rate case initiated on or after [July 8, 2013] October 1, 2023,
7 or in a pending rate case for which a final decision has not been issued
8 prior to [July 8, 2013] October 1, 2023, the Public Utilities Regulatory
9 Authority shall order the state's gas and electric distribution companies
10 to decouple distribution revenues from the volume of natural gas and
11 electricity sales. [For electric distribution companies, the decoupling
12 mechanism shall be the adjustment of actual distribution revenues to
13 allowed distribution revenues. For gas distribution companies, the
14 decoupling mechanism shall be a mechanism that does not remove the
15 incentive to support the expansion of natural gas use pursuant to the
16 2013 Comprehensive Energy Strategy, such as a mechanism that
17 decouples distribution revenue based on a use-per-customer basis. In
18 making its determination on this matter, the authority shall consider the
19 impact of decoupling on the gas or electric distribution company's
20 return on equity and make any necessary adjustments thereto.] The
21 authority shall have the discretion to determine the decoupling
22 mechanism and methodology used in decoupling orders made
23 pursuant to this subsection, subject to the principles set forth in
24 subsection (m) of section 16-2, as amended by this act. In making such
25 determination, the authority shall consider factors, including, but not
26 limited to, (1) whether the decoupling mechanism and methodology is
27 in the best interest of ratepayers, (2) whether such mechanism and
28 methodology adequately accounts for distribution system service
29 outages, and (3) whether such mechanism and methodology adequately
30 addresses the disincentive for utilities to engage in conservation and
31 energy efficiency measures.

32 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 16-243p of the general statutes is
33 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
34 *passage*):

35 (b) No [electric distribution company shall recover its] public service

36 company with more than seventy-five thousand customers shall recover
37 through rates its direct or indirect costs associated with its attendance
38 [or participation in any rate-making hearing before] in, participation in,
39 preparation for, or appeal of any rate proceeding conducted before the
40 authority. Such costs shall include, but need not be limited to, attorneys'
41 fees, fees to engage expert witnesses or consultants, the portion of
42 employee salaries associated with such attendance, participation,
43 preparation or appeal of a rate proceeding and related costs identified
44 by the authority.

45 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) No public service company
46 shall recover through rates any direct or indirect cost associated with
47 membership, dues, sponsorships or contributions to a business or
48 industry trade association, group or related entity incorporated under
49 Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
50 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended
51 from time to time.

52 (b) No public service company shall recover through rates any direct
53 or indirect cost associated with lobbying or legislative action, as such
54 terms are defined in section 1-91 of the general statutes.

55 (c) No public service company shall recover through rates any direct
56 or indirect cost associated with advertising, marketing, communications
57 that seek to influence public opinion or any other related costs identified
58 by the authority, unless such marketing, advertising, communications
59 or related costs are specifically approved or ordered by the authority or
60 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

61 (d) No public service company shall recover through rates any direct
62 or indirect cost associated with (1) travel, lodging or food and beverage
63 expenses for such company's board of directors and officers or the board
64 of directors and officers of such company's parent company; (2)
65 entertainment or gifts; (3) any owned, leased or chartered aircraft for
66 such company's board of directors and officers or the board of directors
67 and officers of such company's parent company; or (4) investor

68 relations.

69 (e) On or before January 15, 2024, and annually thereafter, each public
70 service company with more than seventy-five thousand customers shall
71 report to the authority an itemized list of costs associated with the
72 activities described in this section and subsection (b) of section 16-243p
73 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in a form prescribed by
74 the authority. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1)
75 Any costs spent by the parent company or affiliates of the public service
76 company directly billed or allocated to the public service company; (2)
77 a list of the title, job description and salary of any employees of the
78 public service company who performed work associated with the
79 activities described in this section or in subsection (b) of section 16-243p
80 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the hours attributed
81 to such work; (3) a list of the title, job description and salary of any
82 employees of the parent company or affiliate who performed work
83 associated with the activities described in this section or in subsection
84 (b) of section 16-243p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and
85 the hours attributed to such work that were directly billed or allocated
86 to the public service company; (4) an itemized list of costs that the public
87 service company made to all third-party vendors for any expenses
88 associated with the activities described in this section or in subsection
89 (b) of section 16-243p of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
90 including unredacted billing amounts, billing dates, payees and
91 explanation of the expenditure in detail sufficient to describe the
92 purpose of the cost; and (5) any other itemized information deemed
93 relevant by the authority. No public service company shall recover
94 through rates any costs associated with the preparation of such report.

95 Sec. 4. Section 16-19jj of the general statutes is repealed and the
96 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

97 (a) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority [shall] may, whenever
98 it deems appropriate [, encourage the use of] and is consistent with the
99 principles set forth in sections 16-19, as amended by this act, and 16-19e,
100 adopt proposed settlements produced by alternative dispute resolution

101 mechanisms to resolve contested cases and proceedings.

102 (b) Parties or intervenors to a contested proceeding may propose a
103 settlement by filing a motion, which shall be filed not later than three
104 weeks prior to the scheduled issuance date of the proposed final
105 decision in the proceeding. The parties proposing the settlement shall
106 provide the proposed settlement to all parties and intervenors not less
107 than three business days before the filing of a motion pursuant to this
108 subsection, with a request that the party or intervenor provide a position
109 on the proposed settlement for reference in the motion. Motions made
110 pursuant to this subsection shall include, as applicable: (1) An analysis
111 identifying any increases or decreases to components of rates resulting
112 from the proposed settlement and the causal relationship of particular
113 rate component increases or decreases to provisions in the proposed
114 settlement, to the extent ascertainable; and (2) a statement of the position
115 of nonsettling parties and intervenors on the proposed settlement, such
116 as "support", "oppose" or "no position", if such party or intervenor
117 complies with the request to provide such statement. If a proposed
118 settlement is submitted prior to the close of the evidentiary record,
119 prefiled testimony shall be submitted with the settlement.

120 (c) The provisions of any proposed settlement shall be supported by
121 citations to the evidentiary record or other evidence as the authority
122 may require.

123 (d) The authority may hold hearings and may order briefs to be filed
124 related to any proposed settlement.

125 (e) (1) If the term of any provision in a settlement of a proceeding to
126 amend rates under section 16-19, as amended by this act, extends longer
127 than the effective date of the rate amendment approved in the
128 subsequent proceeding to amend rates under section 16-19, as amended
129 by this act, the authority may reject or modify such provision.

130 (2) Any proceeding to amend rates under section 16-19, as amended
131 by this act, that is resolved by a settlement shall not constitute a general
132 rate hearing for purposes of the periodic review required under section

133 16-19a, as amended by this act, if the previous proceeding to amend
134 rates under section 16-19, as amended by this act, was resolved by a
135 settlement in full or in part.

136 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) In any proceeding to amend rates
137 under section 16-19 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for
138 customers of an electric distribution company that has a service area of
139 eighteen or more cities and towns, that is initiated on or after July 1,
140 2023, or in a pending proceeding to amend rates under section 16-19 of
141 the general statutes, as amended by this act, for customers of an electric
142 distribution company that has a service area of eighteen or more cities
143 and towns, for which a final decision has not been issued prior to July 1,
144 2023, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall not reauthorize the
145 on-bill reconciling mechanism for new electric plant additions that was
146 first authorized in 2018.

147 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 16-19gg of the general statutes is
148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
149 *passage*):

150 (b) [In any rate amendment proposed on and after May 19, 1992, by a
151 public service company, as defined by section 16-1, the Public Utilities
152 Regulatory Authority shall analyze the effect on ratepayers of a public
153 service company's provision of reduced or free utility service to its
154 employees] During each proceeding on a rate amendment under section
155 16-19, as amended by this act, proposed by an electric distribution
156 company, gas company or water company, the Public Utilities
157 Regulatory Authority shall consider the following factors in
158 determining a reasonable rate of return: (1) Macroeconomic conditions
159 at the time the rate amendment is pending before the authority; (2) the
160 company's compliance with state law, regulations and the decisions and
161 policies of the authority and the Department of Energy and
162 Environmental Protection; (3) the burden of the public service
163 company's costs on residential ratepayers, measured as a percentage of
164 household income, under the current and proposed rate; (4) trends in
165 the company's accrual of bad debt; (5) the rate impact on all residential

166 and nonresidential customers; and (6) any other issue deemed relevant
167 by the authority.

168 Sec. 7. Section 16-19 of the general statutes is repealed and the
169 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

170 (a) No public service company may charge rates in excess of those
171 previously approved by the Public Utilities Control Authority or the
172 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, except that any rate approved by
173 the Public Utilities Commission, the Public Utilities Control Authority
174 or the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall be permitted until
175 amended by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, that rates not
176 approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may be charged
177 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and that the hearing
178 requirements with respect to adjustment clauses are as set forth in
179 section 16-19b. For water companies, existing rates shall include the
180 amount of any adjustments approved pursuant to section 16-262w since
181 the company's most recent general rate case, provided any adjustment
182 amount shall be separately identified in any customer bill. Each public
183 service company shall file any proposed amendment of its existing rates
184 with the authority in such form and in accordance with such reasonable
185 regulations as the authority may prescribe. Each electric distribution,
186 gas or telephone company filing a proposed amendment shall also file
187 with the authority an estimate of the effects of the amendment, for
188 various levels of consumption, on the household budgets of high and
189 moderate income customers and customers having household incomes
190 not more than one hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level.
191 Each electric distribution company shall also file such an estimate for
192 space heating customers. Each water company, except a water company
193 that provides water to its customers less than six consecutive months in
194 a calendar year, filing a proposed amendment, shall also file with the
195 authority a plan for promoting water conservation by customers in such
196 form and in accordance with a memorandum of understanding entered
197 into by the authority pursuant to section 4-67e. Each public service
198 company shall notify each customer who would be affected by the
199 proposed amendment, by mail, at least one week prior to the first public

200 hearing thereon, but not earlier than six weeks prior to such first public
201 hearing, that an amendment has been or will be requested. Such notice
202 shall also indicate (1) the date, time and location of any scheduled public
203 hearing, (2) a statement that customers may provide written comments
204 regarding the proposed amendment to the Public Utilities Regulatory
205 Authority or appear in person at any scheduled public hearing, (3) the
206 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority telephone number for obtaining
207 information concerning the schedule for public hearings on the
208 proposed amendment, and (4) whether the proposed amendment
209 would, in the company's best estimate, increase any rate or charge by
210 [twenty] five per cent or more, and, if so, describe in general terms any
211 such rate or charge and the amount of the proposed increase. [, provided
212 no such company shall be required to provide more than one form of
213 the notice to each class of its customers] If a company fails to provide
214 adequate notice, the authority shall consider the effective filing date of
215 such company's proposed amendment to be the date that the company
216 provides adequate notice to customers, as determined by the authority.
217 Until the effective filing date, no days shall count toward the time limit
218 for a final decision in this subsection. In the case of a proposed
219 amendment to the rates of any public service company, the authority
220 shall hold one or more public hearings thereon, except as permitted with
221 respect to interim rate amendments by subsections (d) and (g) of this
222 section, and shall make such investigation of such proposed amendment
223 of rates as is necessary to determine whether such rates conform to the
224 principles and guidelines set forth in section 16-19e, or are unreasonably
225 discriminatory or more or less than just, reasonable and adequate, or
226 that the service furnished by such company is inadequate to or in excess
227 of public necessity and convenience, provided the authority may (A)
228 evaluate the reasonableness and adequacy of the performance or service
229 of the public service company using any applicable metrics or standards
230 adopted by the authority pursuant to section 16-244aa, and (B)
231 determine the reasonableness of the allowed rate of return of the public
232 service company based on such performance evaluation. The authority,
233 if in its opinion such action appears necessary or suitable in the public
234 interest may, and, upon written petition or complaint of the state, under

235 direction of the Governor, shall, make the aforesaid investigation of any
236 such proposed amendment which does not involve an alteration in
237 rates. If the authority finds any proposed amendment of rates to not
238 conform to the principles and guidelines set forth in section 16-19e, or
239 to be unreasonably discriminatory or more or less than just, reasonable
240 and adequate to enable such company to provide properly for the public
241 convenience, necessity and welfare, or the service to be inadequate or
242 excessive, it shall determine and prescribe, as appropriate, an adequate
243 service to be furnished or just and reasonable maximum rates and
244 charges to be made by such company. In the case of a proposed
245 amendment filed by an electric distribution, gas or telephone company,
246 the authority shall also adjust the estimate filed under this subsection of
247 the effects of the amendment on the household budgets of the
248 company's customers, in accordance with the rates and charges
249 approved by the authority. The authority shall issue a final decision on
250 each electric distribution or gas company rate filing [within] not later
251 than three hundred fifty days [from the proposed] after the effective
252 filing date [thereof] of the proposed amendment. The authority shall
253 issue a final decision on all public service company rate filings, except
254 electric distribution or gas company rate filings, [within] not later than
255 two hundred seventy days [from the proposed] after the effective filing
256 date [thereof] of the proposed amendment.

257 (b) If the authority has not made its finding respecting an amendment
258 of any electric distribution or gas company rate within three hundred
259 fifty days from the proposed effective date of such amendment thereof,
260 or if the authority has not made its finding respecting an amendment of
261 any public service company rate, except an electric distribution or a gas
262 company rate, within two hundred seventy days from the proposed
263 effective date of such amendment thereof, such amendment may
264 become effective pending the authority's finding with respect to such
265 amendment upon the filing by the company with the authority of
266 assurance satisfactory to the authority, which may include a bond with
267 surety, of the company's ability and willingness to refund to its
268 customers with interest such amounts as the company may collect from

269 them in excess of the rates fixed by the authority in its finding or fixed
270 at the conclusion of any appeal taken as a result of a finding by the
271 authority.

272 (c) Upon conclusion of its investigation of the reasonableness of any
273 proposed increase of rates, the authority shall order the company to
274 refund to its customers with interest any amounts the company may
275 have collected from them during the period that any amendment
276 permitted by subsection (b) of this section was in force, which amounts
277 the authority may find to have been in excess of the rates fixed by the
278 authority in its finding or fixed at the conclusion of any appeal taken as
279 a result of a finding by the authority. Any such refund ordered by the
280 authority shall be paid by the company, under direction of the authority,
281 to its customers in such amounts as are determined by the authority.

282 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the authority
283 from approving an interim rate increase, if the authority finds that such
284 an interim rate increase is necessary to prevent substantial and material
285 deterioration of the financial condition of a public service company, to
286 prevent substantial deterioration of the adequacy and reliability of
287 service to its customers or to conform to the applicable principles and
288 guidelines set forth in section 16-19e, provided the authority shall first
289 hold a special public hearing on the need for such interim rate increase
290 and the company, at least one week prior to such hearing, notifies each
291 customer who would be affected by the interim rate increase that such
292 an increase is being requested. The company shall include the notice in
293 a mailing of customer bills, unless such a mailing would not provide
294 timely notice, in which case the authority shall authorize an alternative
295 manner of providing such notice. Any such interim rate increase shall
296 only be permitted if the public service company submits an assurance
297 satisfactory to the authority, which may include a bond with surety, of
298 the company's ability and willingness to refund to its customers with
299 interest such amounts as the company may collect from such interim
300 rates in excess of the rates approved by the authority in accordance with
301 subsection (a) of this section. The authority shall order a refund in an
302 amount equal to the excess, if any, of the amount collected pursuant to

303 the interim rates over the amount which would have been collected
304 pursuant to the rates finally approved by the authority in accordance
305 with subsection (a) of this section or fixed at the conclusion of any
306 appeal taken as a result of any finding by the authority. Such refund
307 ordered by the authority shall be paid by the company to its customers
308 in such amounts and by such procedure as ordered by the authority.

309 (e) If the authority finds that the imposition of any increase in rates
310 would create a hardship for a municipality, because such increase is not
311 reflected in its then current budget, or cannot be included in the budget
312 of its fiscal year which begins less than five months after the effective
313 date of such increase, the authority may defer the applicability of such
314 increase with respect to services furnished to such municipality until the
315 fiscal year of such municipality beginning not less than five months
316 following the effective date of such increase; provided the revenues lost
317 to the public service company through such deferral shall be paid to the
318 public service company by the municipality in its first fiscal year
319 following the period of such deferral.

320 (f) Any public service company, as defined in section 16-1, as
321 amended by this act, filing an application with the Public Utilities
322 Regulatory Authority to reopen a rate proceeding under this section,
323 which application proposes to increase the company's revenues or any
324 rate or charge of the company by five per cent or more, shall, not later
325 than one week prior to the hearing under the reopened proceeding,
326 notify each customer who would be affected thereby that such an
327 application is being filed. Such notice shall indicate the rate increases
328 proposed in the application. The company shall include the notice in a
329 mailing of customer bills, unless such a mailing would not provide
330 timely notice to customers of the reopening of the proceeding, in which
331 case the authority shall authorize an alternative manner of providing
332 such notice. The authority shall only grant an application by a public
333 service company to reopen a rate proceeding under this section upon a
334 unanimous vote of the utility commissioners.

335 (g) The authority shall hold either a special public hearing or combine

336 an investigation with an ongoing four-year review conducted in
337 accordance with section 16-19a, as amended by this act, or with a general
338 rate hearing conducted in accordance with subsection (a) of this section
339 on the need for an interim rate decrease (1) when a public service
340 company has, for the rolling twelve-month period ending with the two
341 most recent consecutive financial quarters, earned a return on equity
342 which exceeds the return authorized by the authority by at least one-
343 half of one percentage point, (2) if it finds that any change in municipal,
344 state or federal tax law creates a significant increase in a company's rate
345 of return, or (3) if it [finds] provides appropriate notice that a public
346 service company may be collecting rates or may have an authorized rate
347 of return which is or are more than just, reasonable and adequate, as
348 determined by the authority, provided the authority shall require
349 appropriate notice of hearing to the company and its customers who
350 would be affected by an interim rate decrease in such form as the
351 authority deems reasonable. The company shall be required to
352 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the authority that earning such a
353 return on equity, having an authorized rate of return or collecting rates
354 which are more than just, reasonable and adequate is directly beneficial
355 to its customers. At the completion of the proceeding, the authority may
356 order an interim rate decrease if it finds that such return on equity or
357 rates exceeds a reasonable rate of return or is more than just, reasonable
358 and adequate as determined by the authority. Any such interim rate
359 decrease shall be subject to a customer surcharge if the interim rates
360 collected by the company are less than the rates finally approved by the
361 authority or fixed at the conclusion of any appeal taken as a result of any
362 finding by the authority. Such surcharge shall be assessed against
363 customers in such amounts and by such procedure as ordered by the
364 authority.

365 (h) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the regulation of
366 a telecommunications service which is a competitive service, as defined
367 in section 16-247a, or to a telecommunications service to which an
368 approved plan for an alternative form of regulation applies, pursuant to
369 section 16-247k.

370 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 16-19a of the general statutes is
371 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
372 *passage*):

373 (a) (1) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, at intervals of
374 not more than four years from the last previous general rate hearing of
375 each gas [and] company, electric distribution company or water
376 company having more than seventy-five thousand customers, conduct
377 a complete review and investigation of the financial and operating
378 records of each such company and hold a public hearing to determine
379 whether the rates of each such company are unreasonably
380 discriminatory or more or less than just, reasonable and adequate, or
381 that the service furnished by such company is inadequate to or in excess
382 of public necessity and convenience or that the rates do not conform to
383 the principles and guidelines set forth in section 16-19e. In making such
384 determination, the authority shall consider the gross and net earnings
385 of such company since its last previous general rate hearing, its retained
386 earnings, its actual and proposed capital expenditures, its advertising
387 expenses, the dividends paid to its stockholders, the rate of return paid
388 on its preferred stock, bonds, debentures and other obligations, its credit
389 rating, and such other financial and operating information as the
390 authority may deem pertinent.

391 (2) The authority may conduct a general rate hearing in accordance
392 with subsection (a) of section 16-19, as amended by this act, in lieu of the
393 periodic review and investigation proceedings required under
394 subdivision (1) of this subsection. The authority may convene such
395 general rate hearing at an interval of less than four years at the discretion
396 of the authority, unless convening such general rate hearing at an
397 interval of less than four years violates the terms of any final decision of
398 the authority. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 16-243p, as
399 amended by this act, a gas company, electric distribution company or
400 water company may recover reasonable and prudently incurred costs
401 associated with a proceeding convened by the authority pursuant to this
402 section, provided such company demonstrates to the satisfaction of the
403 authority that it is not collecting rates and does not have an authorized

404 rate of return which is or are more than just, reasonable and adequate,
405 as determined by the authority.

406 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 16-8 of the general statutes is repealed
407 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

408 (b) (1) The authority may employ professional personnel to perform
409 management audits. The authority shall promptly establish such
410 procedures as it deems necessary or desirable to provide for
411 management audits to be performed on a regular or irregular schedule
412 on all or any portion of the operating procedures and any other internal
413 workings of any public service company or person involved in the
414 transportation of gas, as such terms are defined in section 16-280a,
415 including the relationship between any public service company or
416 person involved in the transportation of gas, as such terms are defined
417 in section 16-280a, and a related holding company or subsidiary,
418 consistent with the provisions of section 16-8c, provided no such audit
419 shall be performed on a community antenna television company, except
420 with regard to any noncable communications services which the
421 company may provide, or when (A) such an audit is necessary for the
422 authority to perform its regulatory functions under the
423 Communications Act of 1934, 47 USC 151, et seq., as amended from time
424 to time, other federal law or state law, (B) the cost of such an audit is
425 warranted by a reasonably foreseeable financial, safety or service benefit
426 to subscribers of the company which is the subject of such an audit, and
427 (C) such an audit is restricted to examination of the operating
428 procedures that affect operations within the state.

429 (2) In any case where the authority determines that an audit is
430 necessary or desirable, it may (A) order the audit to be performed by
431 one of the management audit teams, (B) require the affected company
432 or person to perform the audit utilizing the company's own internal
433 management audit staff as supervised by designated members of the
434 authority's staff or the person's own internal management audit staff as
435 supervised by designated members of the authority's staff, or (C)
436 require that the audit be performed under the supervision of designated

437 members of the authority's staff by an independent management
438 consulting firm selected by the authority, in consultation with the
439 affected company or person. If the affected company or person has more
440 than seventy-five thousand customers, such independent management
441 consulting firm shall be of nationally recognized stature. All reasonable
442 and proper expenses of the audits, including, but not limited to, the costs
443 associated with the audit firm's testimony at a public hearing or other
444 proceeding, shall be borne by the affected companies or persons and
445 shall be paid by such companies or persons at such times and in such
446 manner as the authority directs.

447 (3) For purposes of this section, a complete audit shall consist of (A)
448 a diagnostic review of all functions of the audited company or person,
449 which shall include, but not be limited to, documentation of the
450 operations of the company or person, assessment of the company's
451 system of internal controls or assessment of the person's system of
452 internal controls, and identification of any areas of the company or
453 person which may require subsequent audits, and (B) the performance
454 of subsequent focused audits identified in the diagnostic review and
455 determined necessary by the authority. All audits performed pursuant
456 to this section shall be performed in accordance with generally accepted
457 management audit standards. The authority shall adopt regulations in
458 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 setting forth such generally
459 accepted management audit standards. Each audit of a community
460 antenna television company shall be consistent with the provisions of
461 the Communications Act of 1934, 47 USC 151, et seq., as amended from
462 time to time, and of any other applicable federal law. The authority shall
463 certify whether a portion of an audit conforms to the provisions of this
464 section and constitutes a portion of a complete audit.

465 (4) A complete audit of each portion of each gas company, [or] electric
466 distribution company or water company having more than seventy-five
467 thousand customers shall begin no less frequently than every six years,
468 so that a complete audit of such a company's operations shall be
469 performed every six years. Such an audit of each such company having
470 more than seventy-five thousand customers shall be updated as

471 required by the authority.

472 (5) The results of an audit performed pursuant to this section shall be
473 filed with the authority and shall be open to public inspection. Upon
474 completion and review of the audit, if the person or firm performing or
475 supervising the audit determines that any of the operating procedures
476 or any other internal workings of the affected public service company
477 or person involved in the transportation of gas, as such terms are
478 defined in section 16-280a, are inefficient, improvident, unreasonable,
479 negligent or in abuse of discretion, the authority may, after notice and
480 opportunity for a hearing, order the affected public service company or
481 person involved in the transportation of gas, as such terms are defined
482 in section 16-280a, to adopt such new or altered practices and
483 procedures as the authority shall find necessary to promote efficient and
484 adequate service to meet the public convenience and necessity. The
485 authority shall annually submit a report of audits performed pursuant
486 to this section to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
487 having cognizance of matters relating to public utilities which report
488 shall include the status of audits begun but not yet completed and a
489 summary of the results of audits completed. Any such report may be
490 submitted electronically.

491 (6) All prudent, reasonable and proper costs and expenses, as
492 determined by the authority, of complying with any order of the
493 authority pursuant to this subsection shall be recognized by the
494 authority for all purposes as proper business expenses of the affected
495 company or person. Any costs or expenses, as determined by the
496 authority, incurred by the company or person to address or remediate
497 an inefficient, improvident, unreasonable, negligent or imprudent
498 management or company practice identified in the course of the
499 management audit shall not constitute prudent, reasonable and proper
500 costs and expenses.

501 (7) After notice and hearing, the authority may modify the scope and
502 schedule of a management audit of a telephone company which is
503 subject to an alternative form of regulation so that such audit is

504 consistent with that alternative form of regulation.

505 Sec. 10. Section 16-19bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
506 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

507 The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall require that any funds
508 held by an electric distribution company in excess of the company's
509 authorized return on equity, which funds are intended by the authority
510 to offset future rate increases in lieu of a present rate decrease, shall be
511 applied to such rate increases or shall be refunded to the company's
512 customers, [within one year of receipt] in a manner determined by the
513 authority, not later than the conclusion of the company's next
514 proceeding conducted pursuant to section 16-19a, as amended by this
515 act.

516 Sec. 11. Section 16-35 of the general statutes is amended by adding
517 subsection (d) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

518 (NEW) (d) In ruling upon an application for a stay filed to the Public
519 Utilities Regulatory Authority by a person who is a party or intervenor
520 in a proceeding, the authority may only stay enforcement of a civil
521 penalty if the person who appeals the order, authorization or decision
522 that imposed such penalty provides an escrow deposit, bond or other
523 surety equal to the total amount of such penalty. To obtain a stay of
524 enforcement from the authority of any other order, authorization or
525 decision of the authority, the person who appeals such order,
526 authorization or decision shall bear the burden of demonstrating that:
527 (1) There is a strong likelihood that the appeal will succeed; (2) such
528 person will suffer substantial and irreparable harm absent a stay; and
529 (3) the stay will not be harmful to the public interest.

530 Sec. 12. Section 16-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
531 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

532 (a) Each public service company, person involved in the
533 transportation of gas, as such terms are defined in section 16-280a, and
534 electric supplier subject to regulation by the Public Utilities Regulatory

535 Authority shall, in the event of any accident attended with personal
536 injury or involving public safety, which was or may have been
537 connected with or due to the operation of its property, or caused by
538 contact with the wires of any public service company or electric
539 supplier, notify the authority thereof, by contacting the chairperson of
540 the authority or the chairperson's designee by telephone or otherwise,
541 as soon as may be reasonably possible after the occurrence of such
542 accident, but not later than twelve hours after the occurrence, unless
543 such accident is a minor accident, as defined by regulations of the
544 authority. Each such person, company or electric supplier shall report
545 such minor accidents to the authority in writing, in summary form, once
546 each month. If notice of such accident, other than a minor accident, is
547 given otherwise than in writing, it shall be confirmed in writing within
548 five days after the occurrence of such accident. [Any person, company
549 or electric supplier failing to comply with the provisions of this section
550 shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars for each offense.]

551 (b) Each electric distribution company shall incorporate the
552 information described in section 16-19ee, as amended by this act, into
553 the monthly report required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

554 (c) Any person, company or electric supplier that fails to comply with
555 the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than one thousand
556 dollars for each offense. A violation of the provisions of this section
557 concerning the reporting of accidents, except minor accidents, shall
558 constitute a continued violation, pursuant to section 16-41, as amended
559 by this act, for the period from the date the person, company or electric
560 supplier is required to notify the chairperson of the authority by
561 telephone or otherwise of the accident until the date the authority
562 receives such notice in writing. A violation of the provision of this
563 section concerning the reporting of minor accidents shall constitute a
564 continued violation, pursuant to section 16-41, as amended by this act,
565 for the period from the date the person, company or electric supplier is
566 required to notify the authority in writing of such minor accident until
567 the date the authority receives such notice in writing.

568 (d) Any restitution ordered by the authority pursuant to section 16-
569 41, as amended by this act, for customer equipment or customer
570 property damaged in an accident, including a minor accident, as defined
571 by regulations of the authority, shall equal the replacement value of
572 such equipment or property. The fines imposed in accordance with
573 subsection (c) of this section shall not reduce or limit the amount of any
574 restitution.

575 (e) Any fines or restitution costs paid by an electric distribution
576 company pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section shall not be
577 recoverable through rates.

578 Sec. 13. Section 16-19ee of the general statutes is repealed and the
579 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

580 Each electric distribution company shall, in its [periodic] monthly
581 report to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority [,] required pursuant
582 to section 16-16, as amended by this act, provide information concerning
583 the primary cause of all planned and unplanned electrical outages [,]
584 affecting two hundred fifty or more customers in the preceding month
585 that is the subject of such report and shall indicate which outages
586 resulted from a power surge.

587 Sec. 14. Section 16-245d of the general statutes is repealed and the
588 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

589 (a) (1) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, by regulations
590 adopted pursuant to chapter 54, develop a standard billing format that
591 enables customers to compare pricing policies and charges among
592 electric suppliers. The authority shall alter or repeal any relevant
593 regulation in conjunction with the implementation of a redesigned
594 standard billing format described in [subdivision (2)] subdivisions (2)
595 and (3) of this subsection. The authority shall adopt regulations, in
596 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to provide that an electric
597 supplier shall provide direct billing and collection services for electric
598 generation services and related federally mandated congestion charges
599 that such suppliers provide to their customers or may choose to obtain

600 such billing and collection service through an electric distribution
601 company and pay its pro rata share in accordance with the provisions
602 of subsection (f) of section 16-244c. Any customer of an electric supplier,
603 which is choosing to provide direct billing, who paid for the cost of
604 billing and other services to an electric distribution company shall
605 receive a credit on their monthly bill.

606 (2) On or before July 1, 2014, the authority shall initiate a docket to
607 redesign (A) the standard billing format for residential customers
608 implemented pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection to better
609 enable such residential customers to compare pricing policies and
610 charges among electric suppliers, and (B) the account summary page of
611 a residential customer located on the electric distribution company's
612 Internet web site. The authority shall issue a final decision on such
613 docket not later than six months after its initiation. Such final decision
614 shall include the placement of the following items on the first page of
615 each bill for each residential customer receiving electric generation
616 service from an electric supplier: (i) The electric generation service rate;
617 (ii) the term and expiration date of such rate; (iii) any change to such rate
618 effective for the next billing cycle; (iv) the cancellation fee, if applicable,
619 provided there is such a change; (v) notification that such rate is
620 variable, if applicable; (vi) the standard service rate; (vii) the term and
621 expiration date of the standard service rate; (viii) the dollar amount that
622 would have been billed for the electric generation services component
623 had the customer been receiving standard service; and (ix) an electronic
624 link or Internet web site address to the rate board Internet web site
625 described in section 16-244d and the toll-free telephone number and
626 other information necessary to enable the customer to obtain standard
627 service. Such final decision shall also include the feasibility of (I) an
628 electric distribution company transferring a residential customer
629 receiving electric generation service from an electric supplier to a
630 different electric supplier in a timely manner and ensuring that the
631 electric distribution company and the relevant electric suppliers provide
632 timely information to each other to facilitate such transfer, and (II)
633 allowing residential customers to choose how to receive information

634 related to bill notices, including United States mail, electronic mail, text
635 message, an application on a cellular telephone or a third-party
636 notification service approved by the authority. [On or before July 1,
637 2015, the authority shall implement, or cause to be implemented, the
638 redesigned standard billing format and Internet web site for a
639 customer's account summary.] On or before July 1, 2020, and every five
640 years thereafter, the authority shall reopen such docket to ensure the
641 standard billing format and Internet web site for a customer's account
642 summary remains a useful tool for customers to compare pricing
643 policies and charges among electric suppliers.

644 (3) Not later than August 1, 2023, each electric distribution company
645 shall use a total of four categories as part of the standard billing format
646 for all residential customers, one of which shall relate to charges for
647 generation of electricity, one of which shall relate to charges for local
648 distribution of electricity, one of which shall relate to charges for
649 transmission of electricity, and one of which shall relate to system
650 benefits and the subset of federally mandated congesting charges
651 approved by the authority pursuant to any provision of the general
652 statutes, public act or special act. The authority shall require that each
653 electric distribution company's standard billing format for residential
654 customers identify each charge and the corresponding category in
655 accordance with the authority's determinations. The authority, in a
656 docket reopened pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, may
657 modify the categories described in this subdivision if the authority finds
658 that such modification improves customer understanding of the
659 components of the electric bill or customer understanding of what costs
660 are causing increases to the total amount of a customer's bill.

661 [(3)] (4) An electric supplier that chooses to provide billing and
662 collection services shall, in accordance with the billing format
663 developed by the authority, include the following information in each
664 customer's bill: (A) The total amount owed by the customer, which shall
665 be itemized to show (i) the electric generation services component and
666 any additional charges imposed by the electric supplier, and (ii)
667 federally mandated congestion charges applicable to the generation

668 services; (B) any unpaid amounts from previous bills, which shall be
669 listed separately from current charges; (C) the rate and usage for the
670 current month and each of the previous twelve months in bar graph
671 form or other visual format; (D) the payment due date; (E) the interest
672 rate applicable to any unpaid amount; (F) the toll-free telephone number
673 of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for questions or complaints;
674 and (G) the toll-free telephone number and address of the electric
675 supplier. On or before October 1, 2013, the authority shall conduct a
676 review of the costs and benefits of suppliers billing for all components
677 of electric service, and report, in accordance with the provisions of
678 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
679 having cognizance of matters relating to energy regarding the results of
680 such review. Any such report may be submitted electronically.

681 [(4)] (5) An electric distribution company shall, in accordance with
682 the billing format developed by the authority, include the following
683 information in each customer's bill: (A) The total amount owed by the
684 customer, which shall be itemized [to show, (i) the electric generation
685 services component if the customer obtains standard service or last
686 resort service from the electric distribution company, (ii) the distribution
687 charge, including all applicable taxes and the systems benefits charge,
688 as provided in section 16-245l, (iii) the transmission rate as adjusted
689 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 16-19b, (iv) the competitive
690 transition assessment, as provided in section 16-245g, (v) federally
691 mandated congestion charges, and (vi) the conservation and renewable
692 energy charge, consisting of the conservation and load management
693 program charge, as provided in section 16-245m, and the renewable
694 energy investment charge, as provided in section 16-245n] using the
695 categories described in subdivision (3) of this subsection; (B) any unpaid
696 amounts from previous bills which shall be listed separately from
697 current charges; (C) except for customers subject to a demand charge,
698 the rate and usage for the current month and each of the previous twelve
699 months in the form of a bar graph or other visual form; (D) the payment
700 due date; (E) the interest rate applicable to any unpaid amount; (F) the
701 toll-free telephone number of the electric distribution company to report

702 power losses; (G) the toll-free telephone number of the Public Utilities
703 Regulatory Authority for questions or complaints; and (H) if a customer
704 has a demand of five hundred kilowatts or less during the preceding
705 twelve months, a statement about the availability of information
706 concerning electric suppliers pursuant to section 16-245p.

707 (b) An electric distribution company that provides billing services for
708 an electric supplier shall be entitled to recover from the electric supplier
709 all reasonable transaction costs to provide such billing services as well
710 as a reasonable rate of return, in accordance with the principles in
711 subsection (a) of section 16-19e.

712 (c) From June 3, 2014, and until one year after June 3, 2014, inclusive,
713 each electric distribution company shall, on a quarterly basis, include
714 the following items in a bill insert to each residential customer who
715 obtains standard service or electric generation service from an electric
716 supplier: (1) The standard service rate; (2) the term and expiration date
717 of such rate; (3) any change to the standard service rate not later than
718 forty-five days before the standard service rate is effective; and (4)
719 before any reference to the term "standard service", the name of the
720 electric distribution company.

721 (d) From June 3, 2014, and until one year after June 3, 2014, inclusive,
722 each electric supplier shall, on a quarterly basis, include the following
723 items in a mailing to each residential customer receiving electric
724 generation service from such supplier: (1) The electric generation service
725 rate; (2) the term and expiration date of such rate; (3) any change to such
726 rate effective for the next billing cycle; (4) the cancellation fee, if
727 applicable, provided there is such a change; (5) notification that such
728 rate is variable, if applicable; (6) the standard service rate; (7) the term
729 and expiration date of the standard service rate; and (8) the dollar
730 amount that would have been billed for the electric generation services
731 component had the customer been receiving standard service.

732 (e) On and after July 1, 2015, if a residential customer is enrolled in
733 automatic electronic bill payments and does not receive a bill through

734 United States mail, an electric distribution company shall send such
735 customer a link to such customer's bill in electronic mail with
736 confirmation of bill payment.

737 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

738 (1) "Compensation" means payment by any public service company
739 that is a party to a proceeding, investigation or rulemaking before the
740 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or is a party to alternative dispute
741 resolution ordered by the authority, for all or part, as determined by the
742 authority, of a stakeholder group's reasonable attorneys' fees,
743 reasonable expert witness fees and other reasonable costs for
744 preparation and participation in such proceeding before the authority.

745 (2) "Stakeholder group" means (A) a group of persons designated an
746 intervenor pursuant to section 4-177a of the general statutes or
747 designated a participant pursuant to section 16-1-135 of the regulations
748 of Connecticut state agencies that applies jointly for an award of
749 compensation under this section and represents the interests of more
750 than one (i) residential utility customer residing in an environmental
751 justice community, as defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes,
752 (ii) residential utility customer who is a hardship case for purposes of
753 subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the general
754 statutes, as amended by this act, or (iii) small business customer; or (B)
755 a nonprofit organization in the state authorized to represent the interests
756 of (i) residential utility customers residing in an environmental justice
757 community, as defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes, (ii)
758 residential utility customers who are hardship cases for purposes of
759 subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the general
760 statutes, as amended by this act, or (iii) small business customers.
761 "Stakeholder group" does not include any nonprofit or other
762 organization whose principal interests are the welfare of a public service
763 company or its investors or employees, or the welfare of one or more
764 businesses or industries which receive utility service primarily for use
765 in connection with the manufacture, sale or distribution of goods or
766 services for profit; and does not include any state agency that

767 participates in proceedings before the authority, including, but not
768 limited to, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the
769 office of the Attorney General and the Office of Consumer Counsel.

770 (3) "Other reasonable costs" means reasonable out-of-pocket expenses
771 incurred by the stakeholder group that are directly related to the group's
772 preparation for or participation in the proceeding before the authority
773 that resulted in a substantial contribution.

774 (4) "Proceeding" means a contested case, investigation, rulemaking or
775 other formal proceeding before the authority, or alternative dispute
776 resolution ordered by the authority, pertaining to a gas company, water
777 company, pipeline company, electric distribution company or electric
778 supplier, as such terms are defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes,
779 as amended by this act.

780 (5) "Significant financial hardship" means that a stakeholder group
781 demonstrates that it is unable to afford to pay the costs of effectively
782 participating in the proceeding, including attorneys' fees, expert witness
783 fees and other reasonable costs.

784 (6) "Small business customer" means a commercial or industrial
785 electric customer with less than a two hundred kilowatt peak load that
786 is a "small business" under section 4-168a of the general statutes.

787 (7) "Substantial contribution" means participation by a stakeholder
788 group in a proceeding that, in the judgment of the authority, may
789 substantially assist the authority in making its decision or part of its
790 decision because the authority may adopt one or more factual
791 contentions, legal contentions or policy or procedural recommendations
792 that the stakeholder group presents.

793 (b) (1) Not later than January 15, 2024, the Public Utilities Regulatory
794 Authority shall establish a program to award compensation to eligible
795 stakeholder groups in proceedings of the authority. Such compensation
796 shall be limited to not more than one hundred thousand dollars for each
797 stakeholder group, not more than three hundred thousand dollars for

798 all stakeholder groups in an eligible proceeding and not more than one
799 million two hundred thousand dollars total for all stakeholder groups
800 in each calendar year.

801 (2) (A) Not later than March 15, 2026, the authority shall issue a
802 request for proposals to retain a consultant with program evaluation
803 experience to conduct an independent evaluation of the program
804 established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, including its
805 performance, impact and effectiveness. The authority shall determine
806 the criteria for evaluating proposals and the deadline for responding to
807 the request for proposals.

808 (B) Not later than July 15, 2026, the authority shall evaluate the bids
809 submitted and select the bidder that shall conduct the study.

810 (C) Not later than January 15, 2027, the chairperson of the authority
811 shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
812 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
813 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
814 technology, regarding the implementation of the program required by
815 this subsection during the period from January 15, 2024, to July 15, 2026,
816 inclusive. The report shall include, but need not be limited to: (i) A
817 summary of the program's implementation, including a summary of the
818 application process, the number of applicants received, the number of
819 stakeholder groups who participated in proceedings, the number of
820 stakeholder groups who were awarded funding, the number of
821 stakeholder groups who claimed financial hardship, and the annual
822 costs of the program, including a breakdown of costs by type of
823 stakeholder group expense; (ii) an assessment of the impact of
824 stakeholder groups on proceedings and their outcomes; (iii) the
825 program evaluation by the independent consultant retained by the
826 authority; and (iv) any recommendations regarding legislative changes
827 to the program.

828 (c) A stakeholder group that seeks designation as an intervenor
829 pursuant to section 4-177a of the general statutes or a participant

830 pursuant to section 16-1-135 of the regulations of Connecticut state
831 agencies may apply for an award of compensation in accordance with
832 the program established pursuant to this section. At the same time or
833 before filing its application, the stakeholder group shall serve on every
834 party, intervenor or participant to the proceeding notice of intent to
835 apply for an award of compensation. The authority shall determine
836 appropriate procedures for accepting, taking comment on and
837 responding to such applications, and may require that applicants attend
838 educational trainings sponsored or recommended by the authority or
839 the Office of Consumer Counsel as a condition of receiving an award of
840 compensation. Any such trainings shall be designed to support public
841 participation and public understanding of authority decisions and
842 rulings, and general education and awareness regarding public service
843 company regulation and operations, and shall include resources for the
844 public that explain the role and function of the authority and the Office
845 of Consumer Counsel. In its performance of duties pursuant to this
846 subsection, the authority and the Office of Consumer Counsel may
847 retain consultants to provide training in areas in which staff expertise
848 does not currently exist or when necessary to supplement existing staff
849 expertise, and may incur other reasonable costs related to stakeholder
850 engagement and the program, provided the total costs incurred by the
851 authority and the Office of Consumer Counsel under this subsection do
852 not exceed one million dollars per year.

853 (d) Any application submitted pursuant to this section shall include:

854 (1) A statement of the nature and extent and the factual and legal
855 basis of the stakeholder's planned participation, to the extent it is
856 possible to describe such participation with reasonable specificity at the
857 time the application is filed.

858 (2) A detailed budget of anticipated attorneys' and expert witness fees
859 and other costs of preparation for and participation in the proceeding.

860 (3) If participation will impose a significant financial hardship and
861 the stakeholder group seeks advance payment of an award of

862 compensation in order to initiate, continue or complete participation in
863 the proceeding, the stakeholder group shall include substantial
864 evidence of significant financial hardship in its application.

865 (4) Any other requirements, as determined by the authority.

866 (e) (1) Not later than thirty days after receiving a stakeholder group's
867 application, the authority shall decide if the stakeholder group's
868 participation constitutes a substantial contribution. If the authority finds
869 that such participation is a substantial contribution, the authority shall
870 describe this substantial contribution and determine if the stakeholder
871 group has significant financial hardship pursuant to subdivision (2) of
872 this subsection.

873 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (f) of this section, if the authority
874 finds that the stakeholder group has significant financial hardship, the
875 authority may direct the public service company or companies subject
876 to the proceeding to pay all or part of the expected compensation, as
877 determined by the authority, to the stakeholder group before the end of
878 the proceeding. If the stakeholder group discontinues its participation
879 in the proceeding without the consent of the authority, the authority
880 shall recover all or part of any payments made to such stakeholder and
881 refund such payments to the public service company or companies that
882 made the payments.

883 (3) Any determination by the authority to direct payment of all or
884 part of a stakeholder group's expected compensation before the end of
885 a proceeding pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection shall take
886 into consideration the compensation paid to attorneys, expert witnesses
887 and other persons of comparable training and experience who offer
888 similar services as the services relevant to the stakeholder group's
889 application and compensation.

890 (4) Each stakeholder group shall return any unused compensation to
891 the authority, which the authority shall refund to the public service
892 company or companies that provided the compensation.

893 (5) The authority shall require that every stakeholder group maintain
894 an itemized record of all expenditures incurred as a result of the
895 proceeding. The authority may use the record to verify the stakeholder
896 group's claim of financial hardship and to determine if any unused
897 funds remain at the completion of a proceeding.

898 (6) If the authority determines that two or more stakeholder groups
899 have substantially similar interests, the authority may require such
900 stakeholder groups to apply jointly in order to receive compensation.

901 (f) Any compensation shall be paid at the conclusion of the
902 proceeding by the public service company, in a manner determined by
903 the authority. Compensation shall be paid by all relevant public service
904 companies in proportion to such companies' relative annual load,
905 number of customers or revenue, as determined by the authority.

906 (g) The authority shall not award compensation to any stakeholder
907 group that delays or obstructs, or attempts to delay or obstruct, the
908 orderly and timely fulfillment of the authority's duties under this title.

909 (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed as restricting,
910 diminishing or otherwise altering the provisions of section 16-2a of the
911 general statutes concerning the Office of Consumer Counsel.

912 Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2024, the
913 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall submit a report, in
914 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
915 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
916 cognizance of matters relating to energy concerning the procurement
917 processes, policies, procedures and timelines associated with the
918 procurement of standard service and supplier of last resort service. Such
919 study shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Reviewing electric
920 distribution companies' procurement policies for standard service; (2)
921 reviewing the procedures used by municipal electric utilities to procure
922 electric generation services and identifying practices that could be
923 adopted by electric distribution companies to lower rates for ratepayers
924 in the state; (3) reviewing the procurement practices of electric

925 distribution companies in other deregulated states and identifying
926 practices that could result in lower rates for ratepayers in the state; and
927 (4) reviewing the economic and policy achievement relationship
928 between environmental attributes purchased by the electric distribution
929 companies through the grid-scale procurements and distributed
930 generation programs, and compliance with the renewable portfolio
931 standards.

932 Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 16-32l of the general statutes is
933 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
934 *1, 2023*):

935 (a) For the purposes of this section: ["emergency" has the same
936 meaning as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 16-
937 32e and "electric distribution company"]

938 (1) "Emergency" means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high
939 water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, landslide, mudslide,
940 snowstorm, drought or fire explosion that results in sixty-nine per cent
941 or less of the electric distribution company's customers experiencing an
942 outage at the period of peak electrical demand;

943 (2) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as
944 provided in section 16-1, as amended by this act; and

945 (3) "After the occurrence of an emergency" means the conclusion of
946 the emergency, as determined by the authority in its discretion, through
947 a review of the following: (A) The time when the electric distribution
948 company could first deploy resources safely in its service territory; (B)
949 the first of any official declarations concerning the end of the emergency;
950 or (C) the expiration of the first of any National Weather Service
951 warning applicable to the service territory.

952 Sec. 18. Subsection (d) of section 16-32l of the general statutes is
953 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
954 *1, 2023*):

955 (d) Not later than fourteen calendar days after the occurrence of an
956 emergency, an electric distribution company may petition the authority
957 for a waiver of the requirements of this section. Any petition for a waiver
958 made under this subsection shall include the severity of the emergency,
959 [employee] line and restoration crew safety issues and conditions on the
960 ground, and shall be conducted as a contested case proceeding. The
961 burden of proving that such waiver is reasonable and warranted shall
962 be on the electric distribution company. In determining whether to grant
963 such waiver, the authority shall consider whether the electric
964 distribution company received approval and reasonable funding
965 allowances, as determined by the authority, to meet infrastructure
966 resiliency efforts to improve such company's performance.

967 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 16-32m of the general statutes is
968 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
969 *1, 2023*):

970 (a) For the purposes of this section: ["emergency" has the same
971 meaning as provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 16-
972 32e and "electric distribution company"]

973 (1) "Emergency" means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high
974 water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, landslide, mudslide,
975 snowstorm, drought or fire explosion that results in sixty-nine per cent
976 or less of the electric distribution company's customers experiencing an
977 outage at the period of peak electrical demand;

978 (2) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as
979 provided in section 16-1, as amended by this act; and

980 (3) "After the occurrence of an emergency" means the conclusion of
981 the emergency, as determined by the authority in its discretion, through
982 a review of the following: (A) The time when the electric distribution
983 company could first deploy resources safely in its service territory; (B)
984 the first of any official declarations concerning the end of the emergency;
985 or (C) the expiration of the first of any National Weather Service
986 warning applicable to the service territory.

987 Sec. 20. Subsection (d) of section 16-32m of the general statutes is
988 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
989 *1, 2023*):

990 (d) Not later than fourteen calendar days after the occurrence of an
991 emergency, an electric distribution company may petition the authority
992 for a waiver of the requirements of this section. Any petition for a waiver
993 made under this subsection shall include the severity of the emergency,
994 [employee] line and restoration crew safety issues and conditions on the
995 ground, and shall be conducted as a contested case proceeding. The
996 burden of proving that such waiver is reasonable and warranted shall
997 be on the electric distribution company. In determining whether to grant
998 such waiver, the authority shall consider whether the electric
999 distribution company received approval and reasonable funding
1000 allowances, as determined by the authority, to meet infrastructure
1001 resiliency efforts to improve such company's performance.

1002 Sec. 21. Section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1003 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1004 (a) There shall continue to be a Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
1005 within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which
1006 shall consist of five [electors of this state] utility commissioners,
1007 appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of both houses
1008 of the General Assembly. Not more than three [members] utility
1009 commissioners of said authority in office at any one time shall be
1010 members of any one political party. [The Governor shall appoint five
1011 members to the authority.] The procedure prescribed in section 4-7 shall
1012 apply to such appointments, except that the Governor shall submit each
1013 nomination on or before May first, and both houses shall confirm or
1014 reject it before adjournment sine die. Any utility commissioner
1015 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by both chambers of the
1016 General Assembly between February 1, 2019, and June 1, 2019, shall
1017 serve a term expiring on March 1, 2024. Any utility commissioner
1018 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by both houses of the
1019 General Assembly between February 1, 2018, and June 1, 2018, shall

1020 serve a term expiring on March 1, 2022. [Between July 1, 2019, and May
1021 1, 2020, the Governor shall appoint three utility commissioners,
1022 provided one such commissioner shall serve a term expiring on March
1023 1, 2021, and two such commissioners shall serve terms expiring on
1024 March 1, 2023.] Any utility commissioner appointed on or after May 1,
1025 2020, shall serve a term of four years. All utility commissioners shall be
1026 electors of the state. The utility commissioners shall be sworn to the
1027 faithful performance of their duties.

1028 (b) [The authority shall elect] Not later than June 30, 2023, and
1029 between June first and June thirtieth in each odd-numbered year
1030 thereafter, the Governor shall select the chairperson of the authority
1031 from among the utility commissioners. The chairperson shall serve a
1032 two-year term starting on July first of the same year. Each June, the
1033 utility commissioners shall choose, from among said commissioners, a
1034 [chairperson and] vice-chairperson, [each June] who shall serve for a
1035 one-year [terms] term starting on July first of the same year. The vice-
1036 chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson in his or her
1037 absence.

1038 (c) Any matter coming before the authority may be assigned by the
1039 chairperson to [a panel of three] one or more utility commissioners.
1040 Except as otherwise provided by statute or regulation, [the panel] any
1041 such utility commissioner or commissioners, as applicable, shall
1042 determine whether a public hearing shall be held on the matter, and
1043 may designate one or more [of its members] utility commissioners, from
1044 among such utility commissioner or commissioners, as applicable,
1045 assigned to such matter pursuant to this subsection, to conduct such
1046 hearing or may assign a hearing officer to ascertain the facts and report
1047 thereon to [the panel] such utility commissioner or commissioners, as
1048 applicable, assigned to such matter. The decision of [the panel, if
1049 unanimous,] such utility commissioner or commissioners, as applicable,
1050 shall be the decision of the authority. In any contested proceeding before
1051 the authority assigned to one or more utility commissioners, whenever
1052 such utility commissioner or commissioners, as applicable, issue a
1053 proposed final decision, all utility commissioners shall vote on the

1054 decision of the authority in such matter. If the decision of [the panel]
1055 such commissioners is not unanimous, the matter shall be approved by
1056 a majority vote of all of the utility commissioners.

1057 (d) The utility commissioners of the Public Utilities Regulatory
1058 Authority shall serve full time and shall file a statement of financial
1059 interests with the Office of State Ethics in accordance with section 1-83.
1060 Each utility commissioner shall receive annually a salary equal to that
1061 established for management pay plan salary group seventy-five by the
1062 Commissioner of Administrative Services, except that the chairperson
1063 shall receive annually a salary equal to that established for management
1064 pay plan salary group seventy-seven.

1065 (e) To insure the highest standard of public utility regulation, on and
1066 after October 1, 2007, any newly appointed utility commissioner of the
1067 authority shall have education or training and three or more years of
1068 experience in one or more of the following fields: Economics,
1069 engineering, law, accounting, finance, utility regulation, public or
1070 government administration, consumer advocacy, business
1071 management, and environmental management. On and after July 1,
1072 1997, at least three of these fields shall be represented on the authority
1073 by individual utility commissioners at all times. Any time a utility
1074 commissioner is newly appointed, at least one of the utility
1075 commissioners shall have experience in utility customer advocacy.

1076 (f) (1) The chairperson of the authority, with the approval of the
1077 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall prescribe
1078 the duties of the staff assigned to the authority in order to (A) conduct
1079 comprehensive planning with respect to the functions of the authority;
1080 (B) cause the administrative organization of the authority to be
1081 examined with a view to promoting economy and efficiency; and (C)
1082 organize the authority into such divisions, bureaus or other units as
1083 necessary for the efficient conduct of the business of the authority and
1084 may from time to time make recommendations to the Commissioner of
1085 Energy and Environmental Protection regarding staff and resources.

1086 (2) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in
1087 order to implement the comprehensive planning and organizational
1088 structure established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall
1089 (A) coordinate the activities of the authority and prescribe the duties of
1090 the staff assigned to the authority; (B) for any proceeding on a proposed
1091 rate amendment in which staff of the authority are to be made a party
1092 pursuant to section 16-19j, determine which staff shall appear and
1093 participate in the proceedings and which shall serve the [members]
1094 utility commissioners of the authority; (C) enter into such contractual
1095 agreements, in accordance with established procedures, as may be
1096 necessary for the discharge of the authority's duties; (D) subject to the
1097 provisions of section 4-32, and unless otherwise provided by law,
1098 receive any money, revenue or services from the federal government,
1099 corporations, associations or individuals, including payments from the
1100 sale of printed matter or any other material or services; and (E) require
1101 the staff of the authority to have expertise in public utility engineering
1102 and accounting, finance, economics, computers and rate design.

1103 (g) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
1104 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
1105 Protection assigned to work with the authority shall have any interest,
1106 financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business,
1107 employment, transaction or professional activity, or incur any
1108 obligation of any nature, which is in substantial conflict with the proper
1109 discharge of his or her duties or employment in the public interest and
1110 of his or her responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, as
1111 defined in section 1-85, concerning any matter within the jurisdiction of
1112 the authority; provided, no such substantial conflict shall be deemed to
1113 exist solely by virtue of the fact that a utility commissioner of the
1114 authority or employee of the department assigned to work with the
1115 authority, or any business in which such a person has an interest,
1116 receives utility service from one or more Connecticut utilities under the
1117 normal rates and conditions of service.

1118 (h) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
1119 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental

1120 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such assignment,
1121 shall accept other employment which will either impair his or her
1122 independence of judgment as to his or her official duties or employment
1123 or require him or her, or induce him or her, to disclose confidential
1124 information acquired by him or her in the course of and by reason of his
1125 or her official duties.

1126 (i) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
1127 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
1128 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such assignment,
1129 shall wilfully and knowingly disclose, for pecuniary gain, to any other
1130 person, confidential information acquired by him or her in the course of
1131 and by reason of his or her official duties or employment or use any such
1132 information for the purpose of pecuniary gain.

1133 (j) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
1134 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
1135 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such assignment,
1136 shall agree to accept, or be in partnership or association with any person,
1137 or a member of a professional corporation or in membership with any
1138 union or professional association which partnership, association,
1139 professional corporation, union or professional association agrees to
1140 accept any employment, fee or other thing of value, or portion thereof,
1141 in consideration of his or her appearing, agreeing to appear, or taking
1142 any other action on behalf of another person before the authority, the
1143 Connecticut Siting Council, the Office of Policy and Management or the
1144 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

1145 (k) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
1146 Authority shall, for a period of one year following the termination of his
1147 or her service as a utility commissioner, accept employment: (1) By a
1148 public service company or by any person, firm or corporation engaged
1149 in lobbying activities with regard to governmental regulation of public
1150 service companies; (2) by a certified telecommunications provider or by
1151 any person, firm or corporation engaged in lobbying activities with
1152 regard to governmental regulation of persons, firms or corporations so

1153 certified; or (3) by an electric supplier or by any person, firm or
1154 corporation engaged in lobbying activities with regard to governmental
1155 regulation of electric suppliers. No such utility commissioner who is
1156 also an attorney shall in any capacity, appear or participate in any
1157 matter, or accept any compensation regarding a matter, before the
1158 authority, for a period of one year following the termination of his or
1159 her service as a utility commissioner.

1160 (l) The chairperson of the authority shall assign authority staff to
1161 fulfill the duties of procurement manager where required pursuant to
1162 this title and title 16a.

1163 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
1164 decisions of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, including, but not
1165 limited to, decisions relating to rate amendments arising from the
1166 Comprehensive Energy Strategy, the Integrated Resources Plan, the
1167 Conservation and Load Management Plan and policies established by
1168 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall be
1169 guided by said strategy and plans and such policies.

1170 (n) Two or more utility commissioners [serving on a panel
1171 established] assigned a matter pursuant to subsection (c) of this section
1172 may confer or communicate regarding the matter before such [panel]
1173 commissioners. Any such conference or communication that does not
1174 occur before the public at a hearing or proceeding shall not constitute a
1175 meeting as defined in section 1-200.

1176 Sec. 22. Section 16-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1178 No officer, employee, attorney or agent of any public service
1179 company, of any certified telecommunications provider or of any
1180 electric supplier shall be a [member] utility commissioner of the Public
1181 Utilities Regulatory Authority or an employee of the Department of
1182 Energy and Environmental Protection.

1183 Sec. 23. Section 16-2c of the general statutes is repealed and the

1184 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1185 There is established a Division of Adjudication within the Public
1186 Utilities Regulatory Authority. The staff of the division shall include,
1187 but not be limited to, hearing officers appointed pursuant to subsection
1188 (c) of section 16-2, as amended by this act. The responsibilities of the
1189 division shall include, but not be limited to, hearing matters assigned
1190 under said subsection and advising the Public Utilities Regulatory
1191 Authority concerning legal issues. [A panel of one] One or more utility
1192 commissioners may assign a hearing officer pursuant to section 16-2, as
1193 amended by this act, and the chairperson of the Public Utilities
1194 Regulatory Authority may assign such other staff as are necessary to
1195 advise said chairperson.

1196 Sec. 24. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) At the next general rate
1197 proceeding of each gas company and water company, as such terms are
1198 defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
1199 with more than seventy-five thousand customers commencing on or
1200 after October 1, 2023, and conducted pursuant to section 16-19 of the
1201 general statutes, as amended by this act, the Public Utilities Regulatory
1202 Authority shall investigate and determine whether to implement low-
1203 income rates for such company's customers. Any low-income rates
1204 adopted pursuant to this section in a general rate proceeding shall apply
1205 only to the rate plan that is the subject of such proceeding.

1206 Sec. 25. Section 16-244z of the general statutes is repealed and the
1207 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

1208 (a) (1) (A) On or before September 1, 2018, the Public Utilities
1209 Regulatory Authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish a
1210 procurement plan for each electric distribution company pursuant to
1211 this subsection and may give a preference to technologies
1212 manufactured, researched or developed in the state, provided such
1213 procurement plan is consistent with and contributes to the requirements
1214 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with section 22a-
1215 200a. Each electric distribution company shall develop such

1216 procurement plan in consultation with the Department of Energy and
1217 Environmental Protection and shall submit such procurement plan to
1218 the authority not later than sixty days after the authority initiates the
1219 proceeding pursuant to this subdivision, provided the department shall
1220 submit the program requirements pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this
1221 subdivision on or before July 1, 2019. The authority may require such
1222 electric distribution companies to conduct separate solicitations
1223 pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection for the resources in
1224 subparagraphs (A), (B) and (C) of said subdivision, including separate
1225 solicitations based upon the size of such resources to allow for a
1226 diversity of selected projects.

1227 (B) On or before September 1, 2018, the authority shall initiate a
1228 proceeding to establish tariffs that provide for twenty-year terms of
1229 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection for each electric
1230 distribution company pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
1231 subdivision (2) of this subsection. In such proceeding, the authority shall
1232 establish the period of time that will be used for calculating the net
1233 amount of energy produced by a facility and not consumed, provided
1234 the authority shall assess whether to incorporate time-of-use rates or
1235 other dynamic pricing and such period of time shall be either (i) in real
1236 time, (ii) in one day, (iii) in any fraction of a day not to exceed one day,
1237 or (iv) in any period of time greater than one day up to and including
1238 one month. In such proceeding, the authority shall consider the findings
1239 of the study of the value of distributed energy resources conducted
1240 pursuant to section 16a-3o. The rate for such tariffs shall be established
1241 by the solicitation pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

1242 (C) On or before September 1, 2018, the Department of Energy and
1243 Environmental Protection shall (i) initiate a proceeding to develop
1244 program requirements and tariff proposals for shared clean energy
1245 facilities eligible pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this
1246 subsection, including, but not limited to, the requirements in
1247 subdivision (6) of this subsection, and (ii) establish either or both of the
1248 following tariff proposals: (I) A tariff proposal that includes a price cap
1249 on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis for any procurement for such

1250 resources based on the procurement results of any other procurement
1251 issued pursuant to this subsection, and (II) a tariff proposal that includes
1252 a tariff rate for customers eligible under subparagraph (C) of
1253 subdivision (2) of this subsection based on energy policy goals identified
1254 by the department in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy pursuant to
1255 section 16a-3d. On or before July 1, 2019, the department shall submit
1256 any such program requirements and tariff proposals to the authority for
1257 review and approval. On or before January 1, 2020, the authority shall
1258 approve or modify such program requirements and tariff proposals
1259 submitted by the department. If the authority approves two tariff
1260 proposals pursuant to this subparagraph, the authority shall determine
1261 how much of the total compensation authorized for customers eligible
1262 under this subparagraph pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision
1263 (1) of subsection (c) of this section shall be available under each tariff.

1264 (2) [Not later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter] Not less than
1265 once per year, each electric distribution company shall jointly or
1266 individually solicit and file with the Public Utilities Regulatory
1267 Authority for its approval one or more projects selected resulting from
1268 any procurement issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
1269 that are consistent with the tariffs approved by the authority pursuant
1270 to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection and
1271 that are applicable to (A) customers that own or develop new generation
1272 projects on a customer's own premises that are less than five megawatts
1273 in size, serve the distribution system of [the] an electric distribution
1274 company, are constructed after the solicitation conducted pursuant to
1275 subdivision (4) of this subsection to which the customer is responding,
1276 and use a Class I renewable energy source that either (i) uses anaerobic
1277 digestion, or (ii) has emissions of no more than 0.07 pounds per
1278 megawatt-hour of nitrogen oxides, 0.10 pounds per megawatt-hour of
1279 carbon monoxide, 0.02 pounds per megawatt-hour of volatile organic
1280 compounds and one grain per one hundred standard cubic feet, (B)
1281 customers that own or develop new generation projects on a customer's
1282 own premises that are less than five megawatts in size, serve the
1283 distribution system of [the] an electric distribution company, are

1284 constructed after the solicitation conducted pursuant to subdivision (4)
1285 of this subsection to which the customer is responding, and use a Class
1286 I renewable energy source that emits no pollutants, and (C) customers
1287 that own or develop new generation projects that are a shared clean
1288 energy facility, consistent with the program requirements developed
1289 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection. For
1290 purposes of this section, "shared clean energy facility" means a Class I
1291 renewable energy source, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this
1292 act, that (i) is served by an electric distribution company, as defined in
1293 section 16-1, as amended by this act, (ii) [is within the same electric
1294 distribution company service territory as the individual billing meters
1295 for subscriptions, (iii)] has a nameplate capacity rating of five
1296 megawatts or less, and [(iv)] (iii) has at least two subscribers. Any
1297 project that is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision
1298 shall not be eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of this
1299 subdivision.

1300 (3) A customer that is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of
1301 subdivision (2) of this subsection may elect in any such solicitation to
1302 utilize either (A) a tariff for the purchase of all energy and renewable
1303 energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, or (B) a tariff for
1304 the purchase of any energy produced by a facility and not consumed in
1305 the period of time established by the authority pursuant to
1306 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection and all renewable
1307 energy certificates generated by such facility on a cents-per-kilowatt-
1308 hour basis, subject to any tariff terms, conditions or other stipulations of
1309 the authority, including, but not limited to, stipulations regarding the
1310 capacity rights of a given facility.

1311 (4) Each electric distribution company shall jointly or individually
1312 conduct an annual solicitation or solicitations, as determined by the
1313 authority, for the purchase of energy and renewable energy certificates
1314 produced by eligible generation projects under this subsection over the
1315 duration of each applicable tariff. Generation projects eligible pursuant
1316 to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall
1317 be sized so as not to exceed the load at the customer's individual electric

1318 meter or a set of electric meters, when such meters are combined for
1319 billing purposes, [from the electric distribution company providing
1320 service to such customer, as determined by such electric distribution
1321 company] as determined by the authority, unless such customer is a
1322 state, municipal or agricultural customer, then such generation project
1323 shall be sized so as not to exceed the load at such customer's individual
1324 electric meter or a set of electric meters at the same customer premises,
1325 when such meters are combined for billing purposes, and the load of up
1326 to five state, municipal or agricultural beneficial accounts, as defined in
1327 section 16-244u, identified by such state, municipal or agricultural
1328 customer, and such state, municipal or agricultural customer may
1329 include the load of up to five additional nonstate or municipal beneficial
1330 accounts, as defined in section 16-244u, when sizing such generation
1331 project, provided such accounts are critical facilities, as defined in
1332 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-243y, and are connected to
1333 a microgrid.

1334 (5) The maximum selected purchase price of energy and renewable
1335 energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis in any given
1336 solicitation shall not exceed such maximum selected purchase price for
1337 the same resources in the prior year's solicitation, unless the authority
1338 makes a determination that there are changed circumstances in any
1339 given year. For the first year solicitation issued pursuant to this
1340 subsection, the authority shall establish a cap for the selected purchase
1341 price for energy and renewable energy certificates on a cents-per-
1342 kilowatt-hour basis for any resources authorized under this subsection.

1343 (6) The program requirements for shared clean energy facilities
1344 developed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this
1345 subsection shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1346 (A) The department shall allow cost-effective projects of various
1347 nameplate capacities that may allow for the construction of multiple
1348 projects in the service area of each electric distribution company that
1349 operates within the state.

1350 (B) The department shall determine the billing credit for any
1351 subscriber of a shared clean energy facility that may be issued through
1352 the electric distribution companies' monthly billing systems, and
1353 establish consumer protections for subscribers and potential subscribers
1354 of such a facility, including, but not limited to, disclosures to be made
1355 when selling or reselling a subscription.

1356 (C) Such program shall utilize one or more tariff mechanisms with
1357 the electric distribution companies for a term not to exceed twenty years,
1358 subject to approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, to pay
1359 for the purchase of any energy products and renewable energy
1360 certificates produced by any eligible shared clean energy facility, or to
1361 deliver any billing credit of any such facility.

1362 (D) The department shall limit subscribers to (i) low-income
1363 customers, (ii) moderate-income customers, (iii) small business
1364 customers, (iv) state or municipal customers, (v) commercial customers,
1365 and (vi) residential customers who can demonstrate, pursuant to criteria
1366 determined by the department in the program requirements
1367 recommended by the department and approved by the authority, that
1368 they are unable to utilize the tariffs offered pursuant to subsection (b) of
1369 this section.

1370 (E) The department shall require that (i) not less than twenty per cent
1371 of the total capacity of each shared clean energy facility is sold, given or
1372 provided to low-income customers, and (ii) not less than sixty per cent
1373 of the total capacity of each shared clean energy facility is sold, given or
1374 provided to low-income customers, moderate-income customers or
1375 low-income service organizations. The authority may modify such
1376 shared clean energy facility capacity requirements for the limited
1377 purpose of aligning the allocation of shared clean energy facility
1378 capacity with the requirements of any federal acts providing renewable
1379 energy incentives.

1380 (F) The department may allow preferences to projects that serve low-
1381 income customers and shared clean energy facilities that benefit

1382 customers who reside in environmental justice communities.

1383 (G) The department may create incentives or other financing
1384 mechanisms to encourage participation by low-income customers.

1385 (H) The department may require that not more than [fifty] forty per
1386 cent of the total capacity of each shared clean energy facility is sold to
1387 commercial customers.

1388 (7) For purposes of this subsection:

1389 (A) "Environmental justice community" has the same meaning as
1390 provided in subsection (a) of section 22a-20a;

1391 (B) "Low-income customer" means an in-state retail end user of an
1392 electric distribution company (i) whose income does not exceed sixty
1393 per cent of the state median income, adjusted for family size, or (ii) that
1394 is an affordable housing facility. The authority may modify such
1395 definition for the limited purpose of aligning such definition with the
1396 requirements of any federal acts providing renewable energy incentives;

1397 (C) "Low-income service organization" means a for-profit or
1398 nonprofit organization that provides service or assistance to low-income
1399 individuals;

1400 (D) "Moderate-income customer" means an in-state retail end user of
1401 an electric distribution company whose income is between sixty per cent
1402 and one hundred per cent of the [area] state median income, [as defined
1403 by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development,]
1404 adjusted for family size. The authority may modify such definition for
1405 the limited purpose of aligning such definition with the requirements of
1406 any federal acts providing renewable energy incentives.

1407 (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2020, the authority shall initiate a
1408 proceeding to establish (A) tariffs for each electric distribution company
1409 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, (B) a rate for such tariffs,
1410 which may be based upon the results of one or more competitive
1411 solicitations issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or on the

1412 average cost of installing the generation project and a reasonable rate of
1413 return that is just, reasonable and adequate, as determined by the
1414 authority, and shall be guided by the Comprehensive Energy Strategy
1415 prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d, and (C) the period of time that will
1416 be used for calculating the net amount of energy produced by a facility
1417 and not consumed, provided the authority shall assess whether to
1418 incorporate time-of-use rates or other dynamic pricing and such period
1419 of time shall be either (i) in real time, (ii) in one day, (iii) in any fraction
1420 of a day not to exceed one day, or (iv) in any period of time greater than
1421 one day up to and including one month. In such proceeding, the
1422 authority shall consider the findings of the study of the value of
1423 distributed energy resources conducted pursuant to section 16a-3o. The
1424 authority shall issue a final decision in such proceeding on or before July
1425 1, 2021. The authority may modify such rate for new customers under
1426 this subsection based on changed circumstances and may establish an
1427 interim tariff rate prior to the expiration of the residential solar
1428 investment program pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-245ff as an
1429 alternative to such program, provided any residential customer
1430 utilizing a tariff pursuant to this subsection at such customer's electric
1431 meter shall not be eligible for any incentives offered pursuant to section
1432 16-245ff at the same such electric meter and any residential customer
1433 utilizing any incentives offered pursuant to section 16-245ff at such
1434 customer's electric meter shall not be eligible for a tariff pursuant to this
1435 subsection at the same such electric meter.

1436 (2) On and after January 1, 2022, each electric distribution company
1437 shall offer the following options to residential customers for the
1438 purchase of products generated from a Class I renewable energy source
1439 that is located on a customer's own premises and has a nameplate
1440 capacity rating of twenty-five kilowatts or less for a term not to exceed
1441 twenty years: (A) A tariff for the purchase of all energy and renewable
1442 energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis; and (B) a tariff for
1443 the purchase of any energy produced and not consumed in the period
1444 of time established by the authority pursuant to subparagraph (C) of
1445 subdivision (1) of this subsection and all renewable energy certificates

1446 generated by such facility on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, subject to
1447 any tariff terms, conditions or other stipulations of the authority,
1448 including, but not limited to, stipulations regarding the capacity rights
1449 of a given facility. A residential customer shall select either option
1450 authorized pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision,
1451 consistent with the requirements of this section. Such generation
1452 projects shall be sized so as not to exceed the load at the customer's
1453 individual electric meter or, in the case of a multifamily dwelling that
1454 qualifies under this subsection, the load of the premises, from the
1455 electric distribution company providing service to such customer,
1456 pursuant to any rules established by the authority and as determined by
1457 such electric distribution company. For purposes of this section,
1458 "residential customer" means a customer of a single-family dwelling, a
1459 multifamily dwelling consisting of two to four units, or a multifamily
1460 dwelling consisting of five or more units, provided in the case of a
1461 multifamily dwelling consisting of five or more units, (i) not less than
1462 sixty per cent of the units of the multifamily dwelling are occupied by
1463 persons and families with income that is not more than sixty per cent of
1464 the area median income for the municipality in which it is located, as
1465 determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban
1466 Development, or (ii) such multifamily dwelling is determined to be
1467 affordable housing by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in
1468 consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental
1469 Protection, Department of Housing, Connecticut Green Bank,
1470 Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and United States Department
1471 of Housing and Urban Development. In the case of a multifamily
1472 dwelling consisting of five or more units, a generation project shall only
1473 qualify under this subsection if: (I) Each of the dwelling units receives
1474 an appropriate share of the benefits from the generation project, and (II)
1475 no greater than an appropriate share of the benefits from the generation
1476 project is used to offset common area usage. The Public Utilities
1477 Regulatory Authority shall initiate an uncontested proceeding to
1478 implement the distribution of the benefits from the generation project
1479 pursuant to this section.

1480 (c) (1) (A) The aggregate total megawatts available to all customers
1481 utilizing a procurement and tariff offered by electric distribution
1482 companies pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be up to
1483 eighty-five megawatts in year one and increase by up to an additional
1484 one hundred sixty megawatts per year [in each of the years two through
1485 six of such a tariff] on and after January 1, 2023, provided the total
1486 megawatts available to customers eligible under subparagraph (A) of
1487 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed ten
1488 megawatts per year, the total megawatts available to customers eligible
1489 under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this
1490 section shall not exceed one hundred megawatts per year and the total
1491 megawatts available to customers eligible under subparagraph (C) of
1492 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed fifty
1493 megawatts per year. The authority shall monitor the competitiveness of
1494 any procurements authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
1495 and may adjust the annual purchase amount established in this
1496 subsection or other procurement parameters to maintain
1497 competitiveness. Any megawatts not allocated in any given year shall
1498 roll into the next year's available megawatts. The obligation to purchase
1499 energy and renewable energy certificates shall be apportioned [to
1500 electric distribution companies based on their respective distribution
1501 system loads,] as determined by the authority.

1502 (B) The electric distribution companies shall offer any tariffs
1503 developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for six years. At the
1504 end of the tariff term pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
1505 subsection (b) of this section, residential customers that elected the
1506 option pursuant to said subparagraph shall be credited all cents-per-
1507 kilowatt-hour charges pursuant to the tariff rate for such customer for
1508 energy produced by the Class I renewable energy source against any
1509 energy that is consumed in real time by such residential customer.

1510 (C) The authority shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on
1511 a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis at the expiration of any tariff terms
1512 authorized pursuant to this section.

1513 (2) [At the beginning of year six of the procurements authorized
1514 pursuant to this subsection, the] The department, in consultation with
1515 the authority, shall assess the tariff offerings pursuant to this section and
1516 determine if such offerings are competitive compared to the cost of the
1517 technologies [. The department] and shall report, in accordance with
1518 section 11-4a, the results of such determination to the General Assembly
1519 not later than January 15, 2027.

1520 (3) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
1521 shall examine how to incorporate the following energy system benefits
1522 into the rate established for any such tariff: (A) Energy storage systems
1523 that provide electric distribution benefits, (B) location of a facility on the
1524 distribution system, (C) time-of-use rates or other dynamic pricing, and
1525 (D) other energy policy benefits identified in the Comprehensive Energy
1526 Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d.

1527 (d) In accordance with subsection (h) of section 16-245a, the authority
1528 shall determine which of the following two options is in the best interest
1529 of ratepayers and shall direct each electric distribution company to
1530 either (1) retire the renewable energy certificates it purchases pursuant
1531 to subsections (a) and (b) of this section on behalf of all ratepayers to
1532 satisfy the obligations of all electric suppliers and electric distribution
1533 companies providing standard service or supplier of last resort service
1534 pursuant to section 16-245a, or (2) sell such renewable energy certificates
1535 into the New England Power Pool Generation information system
1536 renewable energy credit market. The authority shall establish
1537 procedures for the retirement of such renewable energy certificates. Any
1538 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
1539 this section shall be credited to customers through a nonbypassable fully
1540 reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of the electric
1541 distribution company.

1542 (e) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric
1543 distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a
1544 timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
1545 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any

1546 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
1547 any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
1548 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
1549 such electric distribution company.

1550 (f) Notwithstanding the size-to-load provisions of subdivision (4) of
1551 subsection (a) of this section, the entire rooftop space of a customer's
1552 own premises developed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision
1553 (1) of subsection (a) of this section and owned by a commercial or
1554 industrial customer may be used for purposes of electricity generation
1555 and participation in the solicitation conducted by each electric
1556 distribution company pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of
1557 this section.

1558 (g) State, municipal and agricultural customers shall be exempt from
1559 the requirement that generation projects owned or developed pursuant
1560 to subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this
1561 section be located on a customer's own premises.

1562 Sec. 26. Section 16-258e of the general statutes is amended by adding
1563 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

1564 (NEW) (c) Any thermal energy distribution company that has entered
1565 into a power purchase agreement approved by the Public Utilities
1566 Regulatory Authority pursuant to this section may elect to extend the
1567 timeframes established in such agreement for the completion of
1568 significant milestones, as specified in such agreement, in the
1569 development of a combined heat and power system pursuant to such
1570 agreement. Such company may elect to extend all such timeframes for
1571 milestones that such company has not already completed by not more
1572 than two six-month periods. Any such extension shall be in addition to
1573 extensions specified in such agreement. For each six-month extension
1574 that such company elects to use pursuant to this subsection, such
1575 company shall post additional security as specified in such agreement.

1576 Sec. 27. Subsection (a) of section 16-41 of the general statutes is
1577 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

1578 *passage*):

1579 (a) Each (1) public service company and its officers, agents and
1580 employees, (2) electric supplier or person providing electric generation
1581 services without a license in violation of section 16-245, and its officers,
1582 agents and employees, (3) certified telecommunications provider or
1583 person providing telecommunications services without authorization
1584 pursuant to sections 16-247f to 16-247h, inclusive, and its officers, agents
1585 and employees, (4) person, public agency or public utility, as such terms
1586 are defined in section 16-345, subject to the requirements of chapter 293,
1587 (5) person subject to the registration requirements under section 16-
1588 258a, (6) cellular mobile telephone carrier, as described in section 16-
1589 250b, (7) Connecticut electric efficiency partner, as defined in section 16-
1590 243v, (8) company, as defined in section 16-49, (9) entity approved to
1591 submeter pursuant to section 16-19ff, and (10) person involved in the
1592 transportation of gas, as such terms are defined in section 16-280a, shall
1593 obey, observe and comply with all applicable provisions of this title and
1594 each applicable order made or applicable regulations adopted by the
1595 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority by virtue of this title as long as the
1596 same remains in force. Any such company, electric supplier, certified
1597 telecommunications provider, cellular mobile telephone carrier,
1598 Connecticut electric efficiency partner, entity approved to submeter,
1599 person, any officer, agent or employee thereof, public agency or public
1600 utility which the authority finds has failed to obey or comply with any
1601 such provision of this title, order or regulation shall be fined, ordered to
1602 pay restitution to customers or ordered to pay a combination of a fine
1603 and restitution by order of the authority in accordance with the penalty
1604 prescribed for the violated provision of this title or, if no penalty is
1605 prescribed, not more than ten thousand dollars for each offense, except
1606 that the penalty shall be a fine, restitution to customers or a combination
1607 of a fine and restitution of not more than forty thousand dollars for
1608 failure to comply with an order of the authority made in accordance
1609 with the provisions of section 16-19, as amended by this act, or 16-247k
1610 or within thirty days of such order or within any specific time period for
1611 compliance specified in such order. The authority may direct a portion

1612 of any fine levied pursuant to this section to be paid to a nonprofit
1613 agency engaged in energy assistance programs named by the authority
1614 in its decision or notice of violation and may direct a portion of any fine
1615 levied pursuant to this section against a person involved in the
1616 transportation of gas, as such terms are defined in section 16-280a, to
1617 support the study, installation and deployment of residential methane
1618 detectors by one or more public service companies, as determined by
1619 the authority. Any such nonprofit agency that receives a portion of a
1620 fine pursuant to this subsection shall administer such funds as directed
1621 by the authority and submit an annual report to the authority, at the end
1622 of each fiscal year and in a form determined by the authority, that details
1623 the expenditure of such funding. No such nonprofit agency shall use
1624 more than ten per cent of such funding for administrative purposes.
1625 [For] Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, for the fiscal
1626 years ending June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024, the authority shall direct
1627 not less than ninety-five per cent of any fine levied pursuant to this
1628 section to nonprofit agencies engaged in energy assistance programs.
1629 Each distinct violation of any such provision of this title, order or
1630 regulation shall be a separate offense and, in case of a continued
1631 violation, each day thereof shall be deemed a separate offense. Each
1632 such penalty and any interest charged pursuant to subsection (g) or (h)
1633 of section 16-49 shall be excluded from operating expenses for purposes
1634 of rate-making.

1635 Sec. 28. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2024, the
1636 chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall report, in
1637 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
1638 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1639 matters relating to energy on the activities of the joint federal-state task
1640 force on electric transmission, including on any discussions related to
1641 the protection of transmission and distribution infrastructure from
1642 threats. Such report shall not include any information that the
1643 chairperson determines may compromise the security of critical
1644 infrastructure if disclosed publicly.

1645 Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) Not later than January 1,

1646 2024, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a
1647 proceeding to examine occurrences of stray voltage in the state and
1648 make recommendations for detecting, mitigating and preventing stray
1649 voltage. As used in this section, "stray voltage" means any unwanted
1650 electrical leakage.

1651 Sec. 30. Subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the general statutes is
1652 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1653 *passage*):

1654 (b) (1) From November first to May first, inclusive, no electric
1655 distribution company, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this act,
1656 no electric supplier and no municipal utility furnishing electricity shall
1657 terminate, deny or refuse to reinstate residential electric service in
1658 hardship cases where the customer lacks the financial resources to pay
1659 his or her entire account. From November first to May first, inclusive,
1660 no gas company and no municipal utility furnishing gas shall terminate,
1661 deny or refuse to reinstate residential gas service in hardship cases
1662 where the customer uses such gas for heat and lacks the financial
1663 resources to pay his or her entire account, except a gas company that,
1664 between May second and October thirty-first, terminated gas service to
1665 a residential customer who uses gas for heat and who, during the
1666 previous period of November first to May first, had gas service
1667 maintained because of hardship status, may refuse to reinstate the gas
1668 service from November first to May first, inclusive, only if the customer
1669 has failed to pay, since the preceding November first, the lesser of: (A)
1670 Twenty per cent of the outstanding principal balance owed the gas
1671 company as of the date of termination, (B) one hundred dollars, or (C)
1672 the minimum payments due under the customer's amortization
1673 agreement. Notwithstanding any [other] provision of the general
1674 statutes, [to the contrary,] no electric distribution or gas company, no
1675 electric supplier and no municipal utility furnishing electricity or gas
1676 shall terminate, deny or refuse to reinstate residential electric or gas
1677 service where the customer lacks the financial resources to pay his or
1678 her entire account and [for which customer or a member of the
1679 customer's household] if the termination, denial of or failure to reinstate

1680 such service would create a life-threatening situation for such customer
1681 or a member of such customer's household. No electric distribution or
1682 gas company, no electric supplier and no municipal utility furnishing
1683 electricity or gas shall terminate, deny or refuse to reinstate residential
1684 electric or gas service where the customer is a hardship case and lacks
1685 the financial resources to pay his or her entire account and a child not
1686 more than twenty-four months old resides in the customer's household
1687 and such child has been admitted to the hospital and received discharge
1688 papers on which the attending physician, physician assistant or an
1689 advanced practice registered nurse has indicated such service is a
1690 necessity for the health and well-being of such child.

1691 (2) During any period in which a residential customer is subject to
1692 termination, an electric distribution or gas company, an electric supplier
1693 or a municipal utility furnishing electricity or gas shall provide such
1694 residential customer whose account is delinquent an opportunity to
1695 enter into a reasonable amortization agreement with such company,
1696 electric supplier or utility to pay such delinquent account and to avoid
1697 termination of service. Such amortization agreement shall allow such
1698 customer adequate opportunity to apply for and receive the benefits of
1699 any available energy assistance program. An amortization agreement
1700 shall be subject to amendment on customer request if there is a change
1701 in the customer's financial circumstances.

1702 (3) As used in this section, (A) "household income" means the
1703 combined income over a twelve-month period of the customer and all
1704 adults, except children of the customer, who are and have been
1705 members of the household for six months or more, and (B) "hardship
1706 case" includes, but is not limited to: (i) A customer receiving local, state
1707 or federal public assistance; (ii) a customer whose sole source of
1708 financial support is Social Security, United States Department of
1709 Veterans Affairs or unemployment compensation benefits; (iii) a
1710 customer who is head of the household and is unemployed, and the
1711 household income is less than three hundred per cent of the poverty
1712 level determined by the federal government; (iv) a customer who is
1713 seriously ill or who has a household member who is seriously ill; (v) a

1714 customer whose income falls below one hundred twenty-five per cent
1715 of the poverty level determined by the federal government; and (vi) a
1716 customer whose circumstances threaten a deprivation of food and the
1717 necessities of life for himself or dependent children if payment of a
1718 delinquent bill is required.

1719 (4) [In order for] (A) Each gas company and electric distribution
1720 company shall deduct an arrearage from the account of a residential
1721 customer of [a gas or electric distribution] such company [using gas or
1722 electricity for heat to be eligible to have any moneys due and owing
1723 deducted from the customer's delinquent account pursuant to this
1724 subdivision, the company furnishing gas or electricity shall require that]
1725 if the customer [(A) apply and be eligible for benefits available under]
1726 (i) meets the income eligibility requirements of the Connecticut energy
1727 assistance program or state appropriated fuel assistance program; [(B)
1728 authorize the] (ii) authorizes the gas or electric distribution company to
1729 send a copy of the customer's monthly bill directly to any energy
1730 assistance agency for payment; [(C) enter] (iii) enters into and [comply]
1731 complies with an amortization agreement, which agreement is
1732 consistent with decisions and policies of the Public Utilities Regulatory
1733 Authority; [. Such an amortization agreement shall reduce a customer's
1734 payment by the amount of the benefits reasonably anticipated from the
1735 Connecticut energy assistance program, state appropriated fuel
1736 assistance program or other energy assistance sources. Unless the
1737 customer requests otherwise, the company shall budget a customer's
1738 payments over a twelve-month period with an affordable increment to
1739 be applied to any arrearage, provided such payment plan will not result
1740 in loss of any energy assistance benefits to the customer. If a customer
1741 authorizes the company to send a copy of his monthly bill directly to
1742 any energy assistance agency for payment, the energy assistance agency
1743 shall make payments directly to the company. If, on April thirtieth, a
1744 customer has been in compliance with the requirements of
1745 subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this subdivision, during the
1746 period starting on the preceding November first, or from such time as
1747 the customer's account becomes delinquent, the company shall deduct

1748 from such customer's delinquent account an additional amount equal to
1749 the amount of money paid by the customer between the preceding
1750 November first and April thirtieth and paid on behalf of the customer
1751 through the Connecticut energy assistance program and state
1752 appropriated fuel assistance program. Any customer in compliance
1753 with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this
1754 subdivision, on April thirtieth who continues to comply with an
1755 amortization agreement through the succeeding October thirty-first,
1756 shall also have an amount equal to the amount paid pursuant to such
1757 agreement and any amount paid on behalf of such customer between
1758 May first and the succeeding October thirty-first deducted from the
1759 customer's delinquent account.] and (iv) is eligible for financial hardship
1760 programs with the gas or electric distribution company. The amount of
1761 an arrearage deducted under this subparagraph shall be equal to the
1762 customer's monthly payment pursuant to an amortization agreement
1763 under this subdivision, provided the customer meets the requirements
1764 of subparagraphs (A)(i) to (A)(iv), inclusive, of this subdivision for the
1765 month immediately preceding such payment.

1766 (B) Each gas company and electric distribution company shall deduct
1767 an arrearage from the account of a residential customer who meets the
1768 requirements of subparagraphs (A)(i) to (A)(iv), inclusive, of this
1769 subdivision in an amount equal to any payment such customer receives
1770 from the Connecticut energy assistance program, state appropriated
1771 fuel assistance program or other energy assistance sources. Such
1772 deduction shall be in addition to any amount deducted pursuant to
1773 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

1774 (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (7) of this
1775 subsection, any amortization agreement under this subdivision shall
1776 distribute customer payments over a period of twelve months, from
1777 November first to October thirty-first, and shall create a monthly
1778 payment that is affordable to the customer in accordance with the
1779 decisions and policies of the authority.

1780 (D) In no event shall the deduction of any amounts pursuant to this

1781 subdivision result in a credit balance to the customer's account. No
1782 customer shall be denied the benefits of this subdivision due to an error
1783 by the gas or electric distribution company. [The Public Utilities
1784 Regulatory Authority shall allow the amounts deducted from the
1785 customer's account pursuant to the implementation plan, described in
1786 subdivision (5) of this subsection, to be recovered by the company in its
1787 rates as an operating expense, pursuant to said implementation plan.] If
1788 the customer fails to comply with the terms of the amortization
1789 agreement, [or] any decision of the authority rendered in lieu of such
1790 agreement [and] or the requirements of [subparagraphs (A) to (C),
1791 inclusive] subparagraphs (A)(i) to (A)(iv), inclusive, of this subdivision,
1792 the company may terminate service to the customer, pursuant to all
1793 applicable regulations, provided such termination shall not occur
1794 between November first and May first.

1795 [(5)] (E) Each gas and electric distribution company shall submit to
1796 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority annually, on or before [July]
1797 June first, an implementation plan [which] that shall include
1798 information concerning amortization agreements, counseling,
1799 reinstatement of eligibility, rate impacts and any other information
1800 deemed relevant by the authority. The Public Utilities Regulatory
1801 Authority may [, in consultation with the Office of Policy and
1802 Management,] approve or modify such plan [within ninety] not later
1803 than one hundred twenty-seven days [of] after receipt of the plan. If the
1804 authority does not take any action on such plan [within ninety days of
1805 its receipt] by such date, the plan shall automatically take effect at the
1806 end of [the ninety-day] such one-hundred-twenty-seven-day period,
1807 provided the authority may extend such period for an additional thirty
1808 days by notifying the company before the end of [the ninety-day] such
1809 one-hundred-twenty-seven-day period. [Any amount recovered by a
1810 company in its rates pursuant to this subsection shall not include any
1811 amount approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority as an
1812 uncollectible expense.] The authority may deny all or part of the
1813 recovery [required by] of costs incurred pursuant to this subsection if it
1814 determines that the company seeking recovery has been imprudent,

1815 inefficient or acting in violation of statutes or regulations regarding
1816 amortization agreements.

1817 [(6) On or after January 1, 1993, the Public Utilities Regulatory
1818 Authority may require gas companies to expand the provisions of
1819 subdivisions (4) and (5) of this subsection to all hardship customers. Any
1820 such requirement shall not be effective until November 1, 1993.]

1821 [(7)] (5) (A) All electric distribution and gas companies, electric
1822 suppliers and municipal utilities furnishing electricity or gas shall
1823 collaborate in developing, subject to approval by the Public Utilities
1824 Regulatory Authority, standard provisions for the notice of delinquency
1825 and impending termination under subsection (a) of section 16-262d.
1826 Each such company and utility shall place on the front of such notice a
1827 provision that the company, electric supplier or utility shall not effect
1828 termination of service to a residential dwelling for nonpayment of
1829 disputed bills during the pendency of any complaint. In addition, the
1830 notice shall state that the customer [must] is required to pay current and
1831 undisputed bill amounts during the pendency of the complaint. (B) At
1832 the beginning of any discussion with a customer concerning a
1833 reasonable amortization agreement, any such company or utility shall
1834 inform the customer (i) of the availability of a process for resolving
1835 disputes over what constitutes a reasonable amortization agreement, (ii)
1836 that the company, electric supplier or utility will refer such a dispute to
1837 one of its review officers as the first step in attempting to resolve the
1838 dispute, and (iii) that the company, electric supplier or utility shall not
1839 effect termination of service to a residential dwelling for nonpayment of
1840 a delinquent account during the pendency of any complaint,
1841 investigation, hearing or appeal initiated by the customer, unless the
1842 customer fails to pay undisputed bills, or undisputed portions of bills,
1843 for service received during such period. (C) Each such company, electric
1844 supplier and utility shall inform and counsel all customers who are
1845 hardship cases as to the availability of all public and private energy
1846 conservation programs, including programs sponsored or subsidized
1847 by such companies and utilities, eligibility criteria, where to apply, and
1848 the circumstances under which such programs are available without

1849 cost.

1850 [(8)] (6) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall adopt
1851 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out
1852 the provisions of this subsection. Such regulations shall include, but not
1853 be limited to, criteria for determining hardship cases and for reasonable
1854 amortization agreements, including appeal of such agreements, for
1855 categories of customers. Such regulations may include the
1856 establishment of a reasonable rate of interest [which] that a company
1857 may charge on the unpaid balance of a customer's delinquent bill and a
1858 description of the relationship and responsibilities of electric suppliers
1859 to customers.

1860 (7) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may find that a
1861 reasonable amortization agreement, other than a reasonable
1862 amortization agreement under subdivision (4) of this subsection, is a
1863 period of not more than thirty-six months, unless the authority
1864 determines that a longer period is warranted. Not later than October 1,
1865 2024, the authority shall amend any regulations adopted pursuant to
1866 subdivision (6) of this subsection to carry out the provisions of this
1867 subsection.

1868 (8) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may
1869 distribute not more than one million dollars in total each year to
1870 organizations or individuals providing legal services with the express
1871 purpose of attaining participation in public service company programs
1872 designed to assist customers with utility bill or arrearage payments,
1873 including negotiating a reasonable amortization agreement pursuant to
1874 this subsection. Any funds distributed pursuant to this subdivision shall
1875 be paid by all public service companies, in proportion to such
1876 companies' annual load and the amount of services provided to end use
1877 customers or revenue, as determined by the authority.

1878 Sec. 31. Subsection (m) of section 16-245o of the general statutes is
1879 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1880 *passage*):

1881 (m) [The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may initiate a docket
1882 to review the feasibility, costs and benefits of placing on standard
1883 service, or of otherwise limiting the ability to contract with electric
1884 suppliers, all customers] On and after January 1, 2024, customers of
1885 electric distribution companies who (1) [who] are hardship cases for
1886 purposes of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 16-262c, as
1887 amended by this act, (2) [having moneys due and owing] have
1888 arrearages deducted from such customers' bills by the electric
1889 distribution company pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of
1890 section 16-262c, as amended by this act, (3) [receiving] receive other
1891 financial assistance from an electric distribution company, or (4) [who]
1892 are otherwise protected by law from shutoff of electricity services [.
1893 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 16-245r, the authority may,
1894 in a final decision issued pursuant to this subsection, (A) order all such
1895 customers to be placed on standard service, (B) order] may enroll with
1896 an electric supplier, provided all customer contracts with electric
1897 suppliers, [entered into on and after a determined date, to] for rates
1898 effective on and after January 1, 2024, shall be at or below the standard
1899 service rate [, or (C)] for the duration of the contracts. Any billing system
1900 costs incurred by an electric distribution company to comply with this
1901 section shall be recoverable from all licensed electric suppliers. The
1902 authority may initiate a docket to order all customer contracts with
1903 electric suppliers, entered into on and after a determined date, to
1904 comply with appropriate limitations the authority deems necessary. If
1905 the authority issues such an order, it shall reopen such docket not less
1906 than every two years.

1907 Sec. 32. Subsection (d) of section 16a-40m of the general statutes is
1908 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1909 *passage*):

1910 (d) On-bill repayment for any loan that is part of the comprehensive
1911 residential clean energy on-bill repayment program established
1912 pursuant to this section and utilized to improve efficiency or clean
1913 energy improvements for provision of heat to a dwelling unit shall be
1914 treated as part of the primary heating expense for the customer for

1915 purposes of (1) any energy assistance program funded or administered
1916 by the state or under any plan adopted pursuant to section 16a-41a, and
1917 (2) any matching payment program plan pursuant to [subdivisions]
1918 subdivision (4) [to (6), inclusive,] of subsection (b) of section 16-262c, as
1919 amended by this act.

1920 Sec. 33. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
1921 Connecticut Council for Advancing Nuclear Energy Development,
1922 which shall meet not less than four times each year for the purpose of
1923 discussing and planning for the advancement of nuclear energy in the
1924 state. The council shall be an independent body within the Legislative
1925 Department for administrative purposes only.

1926 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

1927 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
1928 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1929 relating to energy and technology, or their designees;

1930 (2) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
1931 the commissioner's designee;

1932 (3) The Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee;

1933 (4) A representative of a nuclear power generating facility in the state,
1934 who shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

1935 (5) A representative of the United States Naval Submarine Base-New
1936 London, who shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the
1937 Senate;

1938 (6) A representative of a manufacturer of nuclear-powered
1939 submarines, who shall be appointed by the majority leader of the House
1940 of Representatives;

1941 (7) A representative of an engineering firm in the state that provides
1942 services in the field of nuclear engineering, who shall be appointed by
1943 the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

1944 (8) Two representatives of institutions of higher education in the
1945 state, one of whom shall be appointed by the majority leader of the
1946 Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of
1947 the Senate;

1948 (9) Two representatives of organizations that advocate for the
1949 protection of the environment, one of whom shall be appointed by the
1950 speaker of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall be
1951 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

1952 (10) A representative of a state-wide organization of municipal
1953 leaders, who shall be appointed by the majority leader of the House of
1954 Representatives;

1955 (11) One who has expertise in workforce development, who shall be
1956 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

1957 (12) One who has expertise in spent nuclear fuel storage, who shall
1958 be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

1959 (13) One who has expertise in the supply chain of the state's nuclear
1960 industry, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

1961 (c) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later than
1962 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
1963 filled by the appointing authority.

1964 (d) The members of the council shall select the chairperson of the
1965 council from among the members of the council. Until such selection,
1966 the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
1967 tempore of the Senate shall select an acting chairperson of the council
1968 from among the members of the council. Such acting chairperson shall
1969 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
1970 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

1971 (e) Not later than February 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
1972 council shall submit a report concerning advancements that are
1973 occurring in nuclear energy development to the joint standing

1974 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1975 relating to energy, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
1976 the general statutes. Such report may include recommendations,
1977 including, but not limited to, recommendations concerning (1)
1978 opportunities for regional partnerships related to nuclear energy
1979 development, expansion and research, (2) opportunities for state
1980 agencies to collaborate with federal agencies, institutions of higher
1981 education, businesses, nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders
1982 to organize the state's resources related to nuclear energy, and (3) other
1983 ways to promote nuclear energy development, expansion and research
1984 in the state.

1985 Sec. 34. Section 22a-136 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1986 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

1987 No construction shall commence on a fifth nuclear power facility
1988 until the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection finds
1989 that the United States Government, through its authorized agency, has
1990 identified and approved a demonstrable technology or means for the
1991 disposal of high level nuclear waste. The provisions of this section shall
1992 not apply to construction at any nuclear power generating facility
1993 operating in the state as of October 1, 2022. As used in this section, "high
1994 level nuclear waste" means those aqueous wastes resulting from the
1995 operation of the first cycle of the solvent extraction system or equivalent
1996 and the concentrated wastes of the subsequent extraction cycles or
1997 equivalent in a facility for reprocessing irradiated reactor fuel and shall
1998 include spent fuel assemblies prior to fuel reprocessing.

1999 Sec. 35. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Department of Energy and
2000 Environmental Protection shall, within available resources, conduct a
2001 study to (1) evaluate the feasibility of deploying small modular reactors,
2002 advanced nuclear reactors, fusion energy facilities and other zero carbon
2003 resources that can improve affordability, fuel security, renewable
2004 integration, and winter reliability within the New England regional
2005 electric grid; (2) review the process for power purchase agreements
2006 procured pursuant to a state solicitation or pursuant to the state's

2007 renewable energy programs and identify best practices to ensure
2008 reliability in associated energy markets, reasonably reduce costs to
2009 ratepayers and promote conservation; and (3) review the state's gas
2010 supply system and evaluate whether current supply and capacity is
2011 adequate to meet the energy needs of residences and power plants in
2012 the state. In conducting such study, the department shall consult the
2013 Nuclear Energy Advisory Council established pursuant to section 16-
2014 11a of the general statutes. Not later than January 15, 2024, the
2015 department shall submit a progress report and any recommendations
2016 relevant to such progress report to the joint standing committee of the
2017 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
2018 technology. Not later than March 15, 2024, the department shall submit
2019 a full report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
2020 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2021 relating to energy and technology, in accordance with the provisions of
2022 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

2023 Sec. 36. Subsection (a) of section 16-1 of the general statutes is
2024 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
2025 *passage*):

2026 (a) Terms used in this title and in chapters 244, 244a, 244b, 245, 245a
2027 and 245b shall be construed as follows, unless another meaning is
2028 expressed or is clearly apparent from the language or context:

2029 (1) "Authority" means the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and
2030 "department" means the Department of Energy and Environmental
2031 Protection;

2032 (2) "Utility commissioner" means a [member] utility commissioner of
2033 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;

2034 (3) "Public service company" includes electric distribution, gas,
2035 telephone, pipeline, sewage, water and community antenna television
2036 companies and holders of a certificate of cable franchise authority,
2037 owning, leasing, maintaining, operating, managing or controlling plants
2038 or parts of plants or equipment, but shall not include towns, cities,

2039 boroughs, any municipal corporation or department thereof, whether
2040 separately incorporated or not, a private power producer, as defined in
2041 section 16-243b, or an exempt wholesale generator, as defined in 15 USC
2042 79z-5a;

2043 (4) "Plant" includes all real estate, buildings, tracks, pipes, mains,
2044 poles, wires and other fixed or stationary construction and equipment,
2045 wherever located, used in the conduct of the business of the company;

2046 (5) "Gas company" includes every person owning, leasing,
2047 maintaining, operating, managing or controlling mains, pipes or other
2048 fixtures, in public highways or streets, for the transmission or
2049 distribution of gas for sale for heat or power within this state, or engaged
2050 in the manufacture of gas to be so transmitted or distributed for such
2051 purpose, but shall not include (A) a person manufacturing gas through
2052 the use of a biomass gasification plant provided such person does not
2053 own, lease, maintain, operate, manage or control mains, pipes or other
2054 fixtures in public highways or streets, (B) a municipal gas utility
2055 established under chapter 101 or any other gas utility owned, leased,
2056 maintained, operated, managed or controlled by any unit of local
2057 government under any general statute or any public or special act, or
2058 (C) an entity approved to submeter pursuant to section 16-19ff;

2059 (6) "Water company" includes every person owning, leasing,
2060 maintaining, operating, managing or controlling any pond, lake,
2061 reservoir, stream, well or distributing plant or system employed for the
2062 purpose of supplying water to fifty or more consumers. A water
2063 company does not include homeowners, condominium associations
2064 providing water only to their members, homeowners associations
2065 providing water to customers at least eighty per cent of whom are
2066 members of such associations, a municipal waterworks system
2067 established under chapter 102, a district, metropolitan district,
2068 municipal district or special services district established under chapter
2069 105, chapter 105a or any other general statute or any public or special
2070 act which is authorized to supply water, or any other waterworks
2071 system owned, leased, maintained, operated, managed or controlled by

2072 any unit of local government under any general statute or any public or
2073 special act;

2074 (7) "Consumer" means any private dwelling, boardinghouse,
2075 apartment, store, office building, institution, mechanical or
2076 manufacturing establishment or other place of business or industry to
2077 which water is supplied by a water company;

2078 (8) "Sewage company" includes every person owning, leasing,
2079 maintaining, operating, managing or controlling, for general use in any
2080 town, city or borough, or portion thereof, in this state, sewage disposal
2081 facilities which discharge treated effluent into any waterway of this
2082 state;

2083 (9) "Pipeline company" includes every person owning, leasing,
2084 maintaining, operating, managing or controlling mains, pipes or other
2085 fixtures through, over, across or under any public land, water,
2086 parkways, highways, parks or public grounds for the transportation,
2087 transmission or distribution of petroleum products for hire within this
2088 state;

2089 (10) "Community antenna television company" includes every person
2090 owning, leasing, maintaining, operating, managing or controlling a
2091 community antenna television system, in, under or over any public
2092 street or highway, for the purpose of providing community antenna
2093 television service for hire and shall include any municipality which
2094 owns or operates one or more plants for the manufacture or distribution
2095 of electricity pursuant to section 7-213 or any special act and seeks to
2096 obtain or obtains a certificate of public convenience and necessity to
2097 construct or operate a community antenna television system pursuant
2098 to section 16-331 or a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to
2099 section 16-331q. "Community antenna television company" does not
2100 include a certified competitive video service provider;

2101 (11) "Community antenna television service" means (A) the one-way
2102 transmission to subscribers of video programming or information that
2103 a community antenna television company makes available to all

2104 subscribers generally, and subscriber interaction, if any, which is
2105 required for the selection of such video programming or information,
2106 and (B) noncable communications service. "Community antenna
2107 television service" does not include video service provided by a certified
2108 competitive video service provider;

2109 (12) "Community antenna television system" means a facility,
2110 consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal
2111 generation, reception and control equipment that is designed to provide
2112 community antenna television service which includes video
2113 programming and which is provided in, under or over any public street
2114 or highway, for hire, to multiple subscribers within a franchise, but such
2115 term does not include (A) a facility that serves only to retransmit the
2116 television signals of one or more television broadcast stations; (B) a
2117 facility that serves only subscribers in one or more multiple unit
2118 dwellings under common ownership, control or management, unless
2119 such facility is located in, under or over a public street or highway; (C)
2120 a facility of a common carrier which is subject, in whole or in part, to the
2121 provisions of Subchapter II of Chapter 5 of the Communications Act of
2122 1934, 47 USC 201 et seq., as amended, except that such facility shall be
2123 considered a community antenna television system and the carrier shall
2124 be considered a public service company to the extent such facility is used
2125 in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers; or (D)
2126 a facility of an electric distribution company which is used solely for
2127 operating its electric distribution company systems. "Community
2128 antenna television system" does not include a facility used by a certified
2129 competitive video service provider to provide video service;

2130 (13) "Video programming" means programming provided by, or
2131 generally considered comparable to programming provided by, a
2132 television broadcast station;

2133 (14) "Noncable communications service" means any
2134 telecommunications service, as defined in section 16-247a, and which is
2135 not included in the definition of "cable service" in the Communications
2136 Act of 1934, 47 USC 522, as amended. Nothing in this definition shall be

2137 construed to affect service which is both authorized and preempted
2138 pursuant to federal law;

2139 (15) "Cogeneration technology" means the use for the generation of
2140 electricity of exhaust steam, waste steam, heat or resultant energy from
2141 an industrial, commercial or manufacturing plant or process, or the use
2142 of exhaust steam, waste steam or heat from a thermal power plant for
2143 an industrial, commercial or manufacturing plant or process, but shall
2144 not include steam or heat developed solely for electrical power
2145 generation;

2146 (16) "Renewable fuel resources" means energy sources described in
2147 subdivisions (20) and (21) of this subsection;

2148 (17) "Telephone company" means a telecommunications company
2149 that provides one or more noncompetitive or emerging competitive
2150 services, as defined in section 16-247a;

2151 (18) "Domestic telephone company" includes any telephone company
2152 which has been chartered by or organized or constituted within or
2153 under the laws of this state;

2154 (19) "Telecommunications company" means a person that provides
2155 telecommunications service, as defined in section 16-247a, within the
2156 state, but shall not mean a person that provides only (A) private
2157 telecommunications service, as defined in section 16-247a, (B) the one-
2158 way transmission of video programming or other programming
2159 services to subscribers, (C) subscriber interaction, if any, which is
2160 required for the selection of such video programming or other
2161 programming services, (D) the two-way transmission of educational or
2162 instructional programming to a public or private elementary or
2163 secondary school, or a public or independent institution of higher
2164 education, as required by the authority pursuant to a community
2165 antenna television company franchise agreement, or provided pursuant
2166 to a contract with such a school or institution which contract has been
2167 filed with the authority, or (E) a combination of the services set forth in
2168 subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision;

2169 (20) "Class I renewable energy source" means (A) electricity derived
2170 from (i) solar power, (ii) wind power, (iii) a fuel cell, (iv) geothermal, (v)
2171 landfill methane gas, anaerobic digestion or other biogas derived from
2172 biological sources, (vi) thermal electric direct energy conversion from a
2173 certified Class I renewable energy source, (vii) ocean thermal power,
2174 (viii) wave or tidal power, (ix) low emission advanced renewable energy
2175 conversion technologies, including, but not limited to, zero emission
2176 low grade heat power generation systems based on organic oil free
2177 rankine, kalina or other similar nonsteam cycles that use waste heat
2178 from an industrial or commercial process that does not generate
2179 electricity, (x) (I) a run-of-the-river hydropower facility that began
2180 operation after July 1, 2003, [and] has a generating capacity of not more
2181 than [thirty] sixty megawatts, is not based on a new dam or a dam
2182 identified by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
2183 Protection as a candidate for removal, and meets applicable state and
2184 federal requirements, including state dam safety requirements and
2185 applicable site-specific standards for water quality and fish passage, or
2186 (II) a run-of-the-river hydropower facility that received a new license
2187 after [January 1, 2018,] the effective date of this section under the Federal
2188 Energy Regulatory Commission rules pursuant to 18 CFR 16, as
2189 amended from time to time, [and provided a facility that applies for
2190 certification under this clause after January 1, 2013, shall] is not [be]
2191 based on a new dam or a dam identified by the [commissioner]
2192 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection as a candidate
2193 for removal, and [shall meet] meets applicable state and federal
2194 requirements, including state dam safety requirements and applicable
2195 site-specific standards for water quality and fish passage, [or] (xi) a
2196 biomass facility that uses sustainable biomass fuel and has an average
2197 emission rate of equal to or less than .075 pounds of nitrogen oxides per
2198 million BTU of heat input for the previous calendar quarter, except that
2199 energy derived from a biomass facility with a capacity of less than five
2200 hundred kilowatts that began construction before July 1, 2003, may be
2201 considered a Class I renewable energy source, or (xii) a nuclear power
2202 generating facility constructed on or after October 1, 2023, or (B) any
2203 electrical generation, including distributed generation, generated from

2204 a Class I renewable energy source, provided, on and after January 1,
2205 2014, any megawatt hours of electricity from a renewable energy source
2206 described under this subparagraph that are claimed or counted by a
2207 load-serving entity, province or state toward compliance with
2208 renewable portfolio standards or renewable energy policy goals in
2209 another province or state, other than the state of Connecticut, shall not
2210 be eligible for compliance with the renewable portfolio standards
2211 established pursuant to section 16-245a;

2212 (21) "Class II renewable energy source" means electricity derived
2213 from a trash-to-energy facility that has obtained a permit pursuant to
2214 section 22a-208a and section 22a-174-33 of the regulations of
2215 Connecticut state agencies;

2216 (22) "Electric distribution services" means the owning, leasing,
2217 maintaining, operating, managing or controlling of poles, wires,
2218 conduits or other fixtures along public highways or streets for the
2219 distribution of electricity, or electric distribution-related services;

2220 (23) "Electric distribution company" or "distribution company" means
2221 any person providing electric transmission or distribution services
2222 within the state, but does not include: (A) A private power producer, as
2223 defined in section 16-243b; (B) a municipal electric utility established
2224 under chapter 101, other than a participating municipal electric utility;
2225 (C) a municipal electric energy cooperative established under chapter
2226 101a; (D) an electric cooperative established under chapter 597; (E) any
2227 other electric utility owned, leased, maintained, operated, managed or
2228 controlled by any unit of local government under any general statute or
2229 special act; (F) an electric supplier; (G) an entity approved to submeter
2230 pursuant to section 16-19ff; or (H) a municipality, state or federal
2231 governmental entity authorized to distribute electricity across a public
2232 highway or street pursuant to section 16-243aa;

2233 (24) "Electric supplier" means any person, including an electric
2234 aggregator or participating municipal electric utility that is licensed by
2235 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in accordance with section 16-

2236 245, that provides electric generation services to end use customers in
2237 the state using the transmission or distribution facilities of an electric
2238 distribution company, regardless of whether or not such person takes
2239 title to such generation services, but does not include: (A) A municipal
2240 electric utility established under chapter 101, other than a participating
2241 municipal electric utility; (B) a municipal electric energy cooperative
2242 established under chapter 101a; (C) an electric cooperative established
2243 under chapter 597; or (D) any other electric utility owned, leased,
2244 maintained, operated, managed or controlled by any unit of local
2245 government under any general statute or special act;

2246 (25) "Electric aggregator" means (A) a person, municipality or
2247 regional water authority that gathers together electric customers for the
2248 purpose of negotiating the purchase of electric generation services from
2249 an electric supplier, or (B) the Materials Innovation and Recycling
2250 Authority, if it gathers together electric customers for the purpose of
2251 negotiating the purchase of electric generation services from an electric
2252 supplier, provided such person, municipality or authority is not
2253 engaged in the purchase or resale of electric generation services, and
2254 provided further such customers contract for electric generation
2255 services directly with an electric supplier, and may include an electric
2256 cooperative established pursuant to chapter 597;

2257 (26) "Electric generation services" means electric energy, electric
2258 capacity or generation-related services;

2259 (27) "Electric transmission services" means electric transmission or
2260 transmission-related services;

2261 (28) "Generation entity or affiliate" means a corporate affiliate or a
2262 separate division of an electric distribution company that provides
2263 electric generation services;

2264 (29) "Participating municipal electric utility" means a municipal
2265 electric utility established under chapter 101 or any other electric utility
2266 owned, leased, maintained, operated, managed or controlled by any
2267 unit of local government under any general statute or any public or

2268 special act, that is authorized by the authority in accordance with section
2269 16-245c to provide electric generation services to end use customers
2270 outside its service area, as defined in section 16-245c;

2271 (30) "Person" means an individual, business, firm, corporation,
2272 association, joint stock association, trust, partnership or limited liability
2273 company;

2274 (31) "Regional independent system operator" means the "ISO - New
2275 England, Inc.", or its successor organization as approved by the Federal
2276 Energy Regulatory Commission;

2277 (32) "Certified telecommunications provider" means a person
2278 certified by the authority to provide intrastate telecommunications
2279 services, as defined in section 16-247a, pursuant to sections 16-247f to
2280 16-247h, inclusive;

2281 (33) "Gas registrant" means a person registered to sell natural gas
2282 pursuant to section 16-258a;

2283 (34) "Customer-side distributed resources" means (A) the generation
2284 of electricity from a unit with a rating of not more than sixty-five
2285 megawatts on the premises of a retail end user within the transmission
2286 and distribution system including, but not limited to, fuel cells,
2287 photovoltaic systems or small wind turbines, or (B) a reduction in the
2288 demand for electricity on the premises of a retail end user in the
2289 distribution system through methods of conservation and load
2290 management, including, but not limited to, peak reduction systems and
2291 demand response systems;

2292 (35) "Federally mandated congestion charges" means any cost
2293 approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as part of New
2294 England Standard Market Design including, but not limited to,
2295 locational marginal pricing, locational installed capacity payments, any
2296 cost approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to reduce
2297 federally mandated congestion charges in accordance with section 7-
2298 233y, this section, sections 16-32f, 16-50i, 16-50k, 16-50x, 16-243i to 16-

2299 243q, inclusive, 16-244c, 16-245m, 16-245n and 16-245z, section 21 of
2300 public act 05-1 of the June special session, subsection (f) of section 16a-
2301 3j and reliability must run contracts;

2302 (36) "Combined heat and power system" means a system that
2303 produces, from a single source, both electric power and thermal energy
2304 used in any process that results in an aggregate reduction in electricity
2305 use;

2306 (37) "Grid-side distributed resources" means the generation of
2307 electricity from a unit with a rating of not more than sixty-five
2308 megawatts that is connected to the transmission or distribution system,
2309 which units may include, but are not limited to, units used primarily to
2310 generate electricity to meet peak demand;

2311 (38) "Class III source" means the electricity output from combined
2312 heat and power systems with an operating efficiency level of no less
2313 than fifty per cent that are part of customer-side distributed resources
2314 developed at commercial and industrial facilities in this state on or after
2315 January 1, 2006, a waste heat recovery system installed on or after April
2316 1, 2007, that produces electrical or thermal energy by capturing
2317 preexisting waste heat or pressure from industrial or commercial
2318 processes, or the electricity savings created in this state from
2319 conservation and load management programs begun on or after January
2320 1, 2006, provided on and after January 1, 2014, no such programs
2321 supported by ratepayers, including programs overseen by the Energy
2322 Conservation Management Board or third-party programs pursuant to
2323 section 16-245m, shall be considered a Class III source, except that any
2324 demand-side management project awarded a contract pursuant to
2325 section 16-243m shall remain eligible as a Class III source for the term of
2326 such contract;

2327 (39) "Sustainable biomass fuel" means biomass that is cultivated and
2328 harvested in a sustainable manner. "Sustainable biomass fuel" does not
2329 mean construction and demolition waste, as defined in section 22a-208x,
2330 finished biomass products from sawmills, paper mills or stud mills,

2331 organic refuse fuel derived separately from municipal solid waste, or
2332 biomass from old growth timber stands, except where (A) such biomass
2333 is used in a biomass gasification plant that received funding prior to
2334 May 1, 2006, from the Clean Energy Fund established pursuant to
2335 section 16-245n, or (B) the energy derived from such biomass is subject
2336 to a long-term power purchase contract pursuant to subdivision (2) of
2337 subsection (j) of section 16-244c entered into prior to May 1, 2006;

2338 (40) "Video service" means video programming services provided
2339 through wireline facilities, a portion of which are located in the public
2340 right-of-way, without regard to delivery technology, including Internet
2341 protocol technology. "Video service" does not include any video
2342 programming provided by a commercial mobile service provider, as
2343 defined in 47 USC 332(d), any video programming provided as part of
2344 community antenna television service in a franchise area as of October
2345 1, 2007, any video programming provided as part of and via a service
2346 that enables users to access content, information, electronic mail or other
2347 services over the public Internet;

2348 (41) "Certified competitive video service provider" means an entity
2349 providing video service pursuant to a certificate of video franchise
2350 authority issued by the authority in accordance with section 16-331e.
2351 "Certified competitive video service provider" does not mean an entity
2352 issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity in accordance
2353 with section 16-331 or the affiliates, successors and assigns of such entity
2354 or an entity issued a certificate of cable franchise authority in accordance
2355 with section 16-331p or the affiliates, successors and assignees of such
2356 entity;

2357 (42) "Certificate of video franchise authority" means an authorization
2358 issued by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority conferring the right
2359 to an entity or person to own, lease, maintain, operate, manage or
2360 control facilities in, under or over any public highway to offer video
2361 service to any subscribers in the state;

2362 (43) "Certificate of cable franchise authority" means an authorization

2363 issued by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority pursuant to section
2364 16-331q conferring the right to a community antenna television
2365 company to own, lease, maintain, operate, manage or control a
2366 community antenna television system in, under or over any public
2367 highway to (A) offer community antenna television service in a
2368 community antenna television company's designated franchise area, or
2369 (B) use the public rights-of-way to offer video service in a designated
2370 franchise area. The certificate of cable franchise authority shall be issued
2371 as an alternative to a certificate of public convenience and necessity
2372 pursuant to section 16-331 and shall only be available to a community
2373 antenna television company under the terms specified in sections 16-
2374 331q to 16-331aa, inclusive;

2375 (44) "Thermal energy transportation company" means any person
2376 authorized under any provision of the general statutes or special act to
2377 furnish heat or air conditioning or both, by means of steam, heated or
2378 chilled water or other medium, to lay and maintain mains, pipes or
2379 other conduits, and to erect such other fixtures necessary or convenient
2380 in and on the streets, highways and public grounds of any municipality
2381 to carry steam, heated or chilled water or other medium from such plant
2382 to the location to be served and to return the same;

2383 (45) "The Connecticut Television Network" means the General
2384 Assembly's state-wide twenty-four-hour state public affairs
2385 programming service, separate and distinct from community access
2386 channels;

2387 (46) "Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection" means
2388 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection appointed
2389 pursuant to title 4, or the commissioner's designee;

2390 (47) "Large-scale hydropower" means any hydropower facility that
2391 (A) began operation on or after January 1, 2003, (B) is located in the New
2392 England Power Pool Generation Information System geographic
2393 eligibility area in accordance with Rule 2.3 of said system or an area
2394 abutting the northern boundary of the New England Power Pool

2395 Generation Information System geographic eligibility area that is not
2396 interconnected with any other control area that is not a part of the New
2397 England Power Pool Generation Information System geographic
2398 eligibility area, (C) delivers power into such geographic eligibility area,
2399 and (D) has a generating capacity of more than thirty megawatts;

2400 (48) "Energy storage system" means any commercially available
2401 technology that is capable of absorbing energy, storing it for a period of
2402 time and thereafter dispatching the energy, and that is capable of either:
2403 (A) Using mechanical, chemical or thermal processes to store electricity
2404 that is generated at one time for use at a later time; (B) storing thermal
2405 energy for direct use for heating or cooling at a later time in a manner
2406 that avoids the need to use electricity at a later time; (C) using
2407 mechanical, chemical or thermal processes to store electricity generated
2408 from renewable energy sources for use at a later time; or (D) using
2409 mechanical, chemical or thermal processes to capture or harness waste
2410 electricity and to store such electricity generated from mechanical
2411 processes for delivery at a later time;

2412 (49) "Distributed energy resource" means any (A) customer-side
2413 distributed resource or grid-side distributed resource that generates
2414 electricity from a Class I renewable energy source or Class III source,
2415 and (B) customer-side distributed resource that reduces demand for
2416 electricity through conservation and load management, energy storage
2417 system which is located on the customer-side of the meter or is
2418 connected to the distribution system or microgrid; and

2419 (50) "Grid-side system enhancement" means an investment in
2420 distribution system infrastructure, technology and systems designed to
2421 enable the deployment of distributed energy resources and allow for
2422 grid management and system balancing, including, but not limited to,
2423 energy storage systems, distribution system automation and controls,
2424 intelligent field systems, advanced distribution system metering, and
2425 communication and systems that enable two-way power flow.

2426 Sec. 37. Subsection (e) of section 16a-3i of the general statutes is

2427 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
2428 *1, 2023*):

2429 (e) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 16-
2430 245a, in the event that (1) for any calendar year commencing on or after
2431 January 1, 2014, there is such a presumption pursuant to subsection (a)
2432 of this section, (2) the commissioner finds material shortage of Class I
2433 renewable energy sources pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (3)
2434 there is a determination of inadequacy pursuant to subsection (c) of this
2435 section, and (4) any contracts for Class I renewable energy sources
2436 approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority pursuant to
2437 subsection (d) of this section yield an amount of Class I renewable
2438 energy sources that is insufficient to rectify any projected shortage
2439 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, then commencing on or after
2440 [January 1, 2016] October 1, 2023, the commissioner may allow not more
2441 than [one] two and one-half percentage [point] points of the Class I
2442 renewable portfolio standards established pursuant to section 16-245a
2443 effective for the succeeding and subsequent calendar years to be
2444 satisfied by large-scale hydropower procured pursuant to section 16a-
2445 3g. The requirements applicable to electric suppliers and electric
2446 distribution companies pursuant to section 16-245a shall consequently
2447 be reduced by not more than [one] two and one-half percentage [point]
2448 points in proportion to the commissioner's action, provided (A) the
2449 commissioner shall not allow a total of more than five percentage points
2450 of the Class I renewable portfolio standard to be met by large-scale
2451 hydropower [by December 31, 2020] on and after October 1, 2023, and
2452 (B) no such large-scale hydropower shall be eligible to trade in the New
2453 England Power Pool Generation Information System renewable energy
2454 credit market.

2455 Sec. 38. Subparagraph (D) of subdivision (57) of section 12-81 of the
2456 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2457 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

2458 (D) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2014,
2459 any (i) Class I renewable energy source, as defined in section 16-1, as

2460 amended by this act, other than a nuclear power generating facility, (ii)
2461 hydropower facility described in subdivision (21) of subsection (a) of
2462 section 16-1, as amended by this act, or (iii) solar thermal or geothermal
2463 renewable energy source, installed for generation or displacement of
2464 energy, provided (I) such installation occurs on or after January 1, 2014,
2465 (II) is for commercial or industrial purposes, (III) the nameplate capacity
2466 of such source or facility does not exceed the load for the location where
2467 such generation or displacement is located or the aggregated load of the
2468 beneficial accounts for any Class I renewable energy source
2469 participating in virtual net metering pursuant to section 16-244u, and
2470 (IV) in the case of clause (iii) of this subparagraph, such exemption shall
2471 apply only to the amount by which the assessed valuation of the real
2472 property equipped with such source exceeds the assessed valuation of
2473 such real property equipped with the conventional portion of the
2474 source;

2475 Sec. 39. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2476 "regional petroleum administration subdistrict" means the Petroleum
2477 Administration for Defense District 1A, or a successor subdistrict used
2478 by the United States Department of Energy to track petroleum products
2479 that includes the territory of the state.

2480 (b) On or before October 1, 2023, any person engaged in the business
2481 of operating a petroleum product storage terminal or petroleum
2482 product pipeline in the state shall notify the Commissioner of Energy
2483 and Environmental Protection, in writing and in such form as
2484 prescribed by the commissioner, of information pertaining to the
2485 identity and storage or flow capacity of any such terminal or pipeline.

2486 (c) If actual stocks of any petroleum product throughout the regional
2487 petroleum administration subdistrict fall below the most recent five-
2488 year average, as reported by the United States Energy Information
2489 Administration, the commissioner may require any person engaged in
2490 the business of operating a petroleum product storage terminal or
2491 petroleum product pipeline in the state to report information pertaining
2492 to the actual petroleum products inventory or flow of any such terminal

2493 or pipeline, on forms prescribed by the commissioner. Such report shall
 2494 be submitted not later than fifteen days after a request by the
 2495 commissioner.

2496 (d) Information submitted to the commissioner pursuant to this
 2497 section shall be exempt from disclosure under section 1-210 of the
 2498 general statutes.

2499 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the
 2500 commissioner's authority under section 16a-22i of the general statutes.

2501 Sec. 40. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) Not later than December 31, 2023, the
 2502 Department of Administrative Services, the office of the State Building
 2503 Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall study and
 2504 jointly submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
 2505 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 2506 having cognizance of matters relating to public safety regarding the
 2507 inclusion of gas detectors within the State Building Code. Such report
 2508 shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the anticipated feasibility of
 2509 requiring gas detectors in all buildings that use natural gas or propane
 2510 gas, (2) recommendations for future legislative changes, (3) the current
 2511 availability of gas detectors that meet the standards of the National Fire
 2512 Protection Association, (4) a recommended code alignment process to
 2513 accommodate any changes, and (5) the fiscal impact on the state or
 2514 owner of public buildings."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	16-19tt(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	16-243p(b)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	16-19jj
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	16-19gg(b)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	16-19
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	16-19a(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	16-8(b)

Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	16-19bb
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	16-35(d)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	16-16
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	16-19ee
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	16-245d
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	16-32l(a)
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	16-32l(d)
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	16-32m(a)
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	16-32m(d)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	16-2
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	16-4
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	16-2c
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	16-244z
Sec. 26	<i>from passage</i>	16-258e(c)
Sec. 27	<i>from passage</i>	16-41(a)
Sec. 28	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 30	<i>from passage</i>	16-262c(b)
Sec. 31	<i>from passage</i>	16-245o(m)
Sec. 32	<i>from passage</i>	16a-40m(d)
Sec. 33	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 34	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	22a-136
Sec. 35	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 36	<i>from passage</i>	16-1(a)
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	16a-3i(e)
Sec. 38	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	12-81(57)(D)
Sec. 39	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 40	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section