



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 9857



Offered by:

SEN. MARONEY, 14<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. D'AGOSTINO, 91<sup>st</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5314

File No. 152

Cal. No. 538

**"AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER AGREEMENTS AND  
CONSUMER BILLS."**

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes of  
4 this section:

5 (1) "Automatic renewal provision" means any provision that is  
6 included in a consumer agreement under which a business that is a  
7 party to such agreement may renew such agreement without any action  
8 on the part of a consumer who is a party to such agreement;

9 (2) "Business" means any individual or sole proprietorship,  
10 partnership, firm, corporation, trust, limited liability company, limited  
11 liability partnership, joint stock company, joint venture, association or  
12 other legal entity through which commerce for profit or not for profit is  
13 conducted;

14 (3) "Consumer" means any individual who is a resident of this state  
15 and a prospective recipient of consumer goods or consumer services;

16 (4) "Consumer agreement" means any verbal, telephonic, written or  
17 electronic agreement, initially entered into or amended on or after  
18 October 1, 2023, between a business and a consumer under which a  
19 business agrees to provide consumer goods or consumer services to a  
20 consumer. "Consumer agreement" does not include any such agreement  
21 (A) concerning any service provided by a business or its affiliate where  
22 either the business or its affiliate is doing business pursuant to (i) a  
23 franchise issued by a political subdivision of the state, or (ii) a license,  
24 franchise, certificate or other authorization issued by the Public Utilities  
25 Regulatory Authority, (B) concerning any service provided by a  
26 business or its affiliate where either the business or its affiliate is  
27 regulated by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Federal  
28 Communications Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory  
29 Commission, (C) with any entity regulated by the Insurance  
30 Department, or (D) with any bank, out-of-state bank, bank holding  
31 company, Connecticut credit union, federal credit union or out-of-state  
32 credit union, as said terms are defined in section 36a-2 of the general  
33 statutes, or any subsidiary thereof;

34 (5) "Consumer good" means any article that is purchased, leased,  
35 exchanged or received primarily for personal, family or household  
36 purposes;

37 (6) "Consumer service" means any service that is purchased, leased,  
38 exchanged or received primarily for personal, family or household  
39 purposes; and

40 (7) "Continuous services provision" means any provision that is  
41 included in a consumer agreement under which a business that is a  
42 party to such agreement may continue to provide consumer services to  
43 a consumer who is a party to such agreement until the consumer takes  
44 action to prevent or terminate such business's provision of such  
45 consumer services under such agreement.

46 (b) (1) No business shall enter into, or offer to enter into, a consumer  
47 agreement with a consumer if such agreement includes an automatic  
48 renewal provision or a continuous services provision, unless:

49 (A) Such business establishes and maintains a toll-free telephone  
50 number, an electronic mail address or postal address, or the online  
51 means required under subsection (d) of this section, which the consumer  
52 may use to prevent automatic renewal or prevent or terminate  
53 continuous consumer services;

54 (B) Where such consumer agreement contains an automatic renewal  
55 provision, such business discloses to the consumer, electronically,  
56 verbally, telephonically or in writing in the manner specified in  
57 subdivision (2) of this subsection and before such automatic renewal, (i)  
58 that the business will automatically renew such agreement until such  
59 consumer takes action to prevent such automatic renewal, (ii) a  
60 description of the actions such consumer is required to take to prevent  
61 any automatic renewal of such agreement and, if disclosed  
62 electronically, a link or other electronic means such consumer may use  
63 to take such actions as described in subsection (d) of this section, (iii) all  
64 recurring charges that will be charged to the consumer's credit card,  
65 debit card or third-party payment account for any automatic renewal of  
66 such agreement and, if the amount of such charges is subject to change,  
67 the amount of such change if known by such business, (iv) the length of  
68 any automatic renewal term for such agreement unless the consumer  
69 selects the length of such term, (v) any additional provisions concerning  
70 such renewal term, (vi) any minimum purchase obligation, and (vii)  
71 contact information for such business;

72 (C) Where such consumer agreement contains a continuous services  
73 provision, such business discloses to the consumer, electronically,  
74 verbally, telephonically or in writing in the manner specified in  
75 subdivision (2) of this subsection and before such consumer enters into  
76 such agreement, (i) that the business will provide continuous consumer  
77 services under such agreement until such consumer takes action to  
78 prevent or terminate such continuous consumer services, (ii) a

79 description of the actions such consumer is required to take to prevent  
80 or terminate such continuous consumer services, (iii) all recurring  
81 charges that will be charged to the consumer's credit card, debit card or  
82 third-party payment account for such continuous consumer services  
83 and, if the amount of such charges is subject to change, the amount of  
84 such change if known by such business, (iv) the duration of such  
85 continuous consumer services, (v) any additional provisions concerning  
86 such continuous consumer services, (vi) any minimum purchase  
87 obligation, and (vii) contact information for such business;

88 (D) If such business intends to make any material change in the terms  
89 of such automatic renewal provision or continuous services provision,  
90 such business discloses to the consumer, electronically, verbally,  
91 telephonically or in writing in the manner specified in subdivision (2) of  
92 this subsection and before such business makes such material change,  
93 the material change and a description of the actions such consumer is  
94 required to take to cancel such automatic renewal or terminate such  
95 continuous consumer services;

96 (E) If such consumer agreement includes a free gift or trial period,  
97 such business discloses to the consumer, electronically, verbally,  
98 telephonically or in writing in the manner specified in subdivision (2) of  
99 this subsection before such consumer enters into such agreement, (i) the  
100 price that such consumer will be charged following expiration of such  
101 period, and (ii) any manner in which the pricing for such agreement will  
102 change following expiration of such period; and

103 (F) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (F)(iii) of this subdivision,  
104 if such consumer agreement is offered electronically or telephonically  
105 and includes a free gift or trial period, or a discounted or promotional  
106 price period, such business discloses to the consumer, electronically or  
107 telephonically in the manner specified in subdivision (2) of this  
108 subsection and not later than the time specified in subparagraph (F)(ii)  
109 of this subdivision, (I) that such business will automatically renew, or  
110 provide continuous consumer services under, such agreement until  
111 such consumer takes action to prevent such automatic renewal or

112 prevent or terminate such continuous consumer services, (II) the  
113 duration of such automatic renewal term or continuous consumer  
114 services, (III) any additional provisions concerning such renewal term  
115 or continuous consumer services, (IV) a description of the actions such  
116 consumer is required to take to prevent such automatic renewal or  
117 prevent or terminate such continuous consumer services, and (V) if such  
118 agreement is offered electronically, a prominently displayed direct link  
119 or button, or an electronic mail message, required under subsection (d)  
120 of this section.

121 (ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (F)(iii) of this subdivision, if  
122 such business is required to make a disclosure pursuant to  
123 subparagraph (F)(i) of this subdivision, such business makes such  
124 disclosure (I) where the free gift or trial period, or discounted or  
125 promotional price period, is at least thirty-two days in duration, at least  
126 twenty-one days after such period commences and not earlier than three  
127 days before such period expires, or (II) where the free gift or trial period,  
128 or discounted or promotional price period, is at least one year in  
129 duration, at least fifteen days but not more than forty-five days before  
130 such period expires.

131 (iii) Such business shall not be required to make the disclosure  
132 required under subparagraph (F)(i) or (F)(ii) of this subdivision if such  
133 business has not collected, or does not maintain, the consumer's  
134 electronic mail address or telephone number, as applicable, and is  
135 unable to make such disclosure to such consumer by other electronic  
136 means. For the purposes of subparagraphs (E) and (F) of this  
137 subdivision, "free gift" does not include a free promotional item or gift  
138 that a business gives to a consumer if such item or gift differs from the  
139 consumer goods or consumer services that are the subject of the  
140 consumer agreement between the business and the consumer.

141 (2) Each business that is required to make any disclosure under  
142 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall:

143 (A) If the consumer agreement is offered, or entered into,

144 electronically or in writing, make such disclosure (i) in a manner that  
145 may be retained by the consumer, and (ii) in text that is (I) larger than  
146 the size of any surrounding text, or (II) the same size as the surrounding  
147 text but in a typeface, font or color that contrasts with such surrounding  
148 text or is set off from such surrounding text by symbols or other marks  
149 that draw the consumer's attention to such disclosure; or

150 (B) If the consumer agreement is offered, or entered into, verbally or  
151 telephonically, make such disclosure in a volume and cadence that is  
152 readily audible to, and understandable by, the consumer.

153 (c) No business that enters into, or offers to enter into, a consumer  
154 agreement that includes an automatic renewal provision or a  
155 continuous services provision shall charge the consumer's credit card,  
156 debit card or third-party payment account for any automatic renewal or  
157 continuous consumer services, regardless of whether such renewal or  
158 continuous consumer services are offered or provided at a promotional  
159 or discounted price, unless such business has obtained such consumer's  
160 affirmative consent to such renewal or continuous consumer services.

161 (d) (1) Each business that enters into a consumer agreement online  
162 shall, if such agreement includes an automatic renewal provision or  
163 continuous services provision, allow the consumer to take any action  
164 necessary to prevent such automatic renewal or prevent or terminate  
165 such continuous consumer services online, at will and without requiring  
166 such consumer to take any offline action to prevent such automatic  
167 renewal or prevent or terminate such continuous consumer services. No  
168 business that is subject to the provisions of this subdivision shall take  
169 any action to obstruct or delay a consumer's efforts to prevent automatic  
170 renewal of, or prevent or terminate provision of continuous consumer  
171 services under, a consumer agreement pursuant to this subdivision.  
172 Each business that is subject to the provisions of this subdivision shall  
173 enable a consumer to prevent automatic renewal of, or prevent or  
174 terminate provision of continuous consumer services under, a consumer  
175 agreement pursuant to this subdivision by way of:

176 (A) A prominently displayed direct link or button, which may be  
177 located within the consumer's (i) account or profile, or (ii) device or user  
178 settings; or

179 (B) An electronic mail message from the business to the consumer,  
180 which is immediately accessible by the consumer and to which the  
181 consumer may reply without obtaining any additional information.

182 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a business  
183 may require a consumer who maintains an account with the business to  
184 enter the consumer's account information, or otherwise authenticate  
185 such consumer's identity, online before such consumer may take any  
186 action to prevent automatic renewal of, or prevent or terminate  
187 provision of continuous consumer services under, a consumer  
188 agreement pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. No consumer  
189 who is unwilling or unable to enter the consumer's account information,  
190 or otherwise authenticate such consumer's identity, online under this  
191 subdivision shall be precluded from authenticating such consumer's  
192 identity, or taking action to prevent such automatic renewal or prevent  
193 or terminate provision of continuous consumer services, offline by any  
194 other method set forth in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of  
195 subsection (b) of this section.

196 (e) The provisions of this section shall be enforced solely by the  
197 Attorney General. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a  
198 private right of action.

199 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes of this  
200 section:

201 (1) "Consumer" means an individual who is a resident of this state  
202 and a recipient, or a prospective recipient, of consumer goods or  
203 services;

204 (2) "Consumer bill" means a bill or invoice for consumer goods or  
205 services delivered or provided to a consumer by, or on behalf of, a  
206 person doing business in this state;

207 (3) "Consumer goods or services" means articles or services that are  
208 purchased, leased, exchanged or received primarily for personal, family  
209 or household purposes; and

210 (4) "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, limited  
211 liability company, association, joint stock company, business trust,  
212 unincorporated organization or other legal entity.

213 (b) Each person doing business in this state that delivers or provides  
214 consumer goods or services to consumers and issues, or causes to be  
215 issued, consumer bills in an electronic form shall provide to any  
216 consumer, on such consumer's request, consumer bills in paper form.  
217 No such person shall impose, or cause to be imposed, any charge or fee  
218 for providing any such consumer bill in paper form.

219 (c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt  
220 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the  
221 general statutes, to carry out the purposes of this section.

222 Sec. 3. Section 16-333m of the general statutes, as amended by section  
223 18 of substitute senate bill 1058 of the current session, as amended by  
224 Senate Amendment Schedule "A", is repealed and the following is  
225 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

226 (a) No charge may be imposed by any community antenna television  
227 company or certified competitive video service provider in any case  
228 where a video service subscriber of such company or provider, as  
229 applicable, requests a total disconnection of such service. No charge that  
230 exceeds the cost to the company or provider may be imposed by any  
231 such company or provider in any case in which the video service  
232 subscriber requests a downgrade of such service.

233 (b) No company or provider may charge a subscriber for any video  
234 service after the date that such subscriber requests disconnection,  
235 downgrade or cancellation of such service, unless, in the case of a total  
236 disconnection or any video service option requested to be eliminated,  
237 the subscriber prevents the company or provider from disconnecting



238 such service within a reasonable time. If the subscriber makes such  
239 request before the last day of the monthly billing period for such service,  
240 such company or provider, as applicable, shall grant the subscriber a  
241 pro rata rebate for all days of the monthly billing period after such  
242 disconnection, downgrade or cancellation.

243 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve a video service  
244 subscriber of responsibility for charges incurred as of the date of  
245 subscription termination or for any charges resulting from unreturned  
246 or damaged equipment, or for equipment purchased from the company  
247 or provider for which a balance is still owed.

248 Sec. 4. Section 16-47 of the general statutes, as amended by section 19  
249 of substitute senate bill 1058 of the current session, as amended by  
250 Senate Amendment Schedule "A", is repealed and the following is  
251 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

252 (a) As used in this section and section 16-47a, (1) "holding company"  
253 means any corporation, association, partnership, trust or similar  
254 organization, or person, which, either alone or in conjunction and  
255 pursuant to an arrangement or understanding with one or more other  
256 corporations, associations, partnerships, trusts or similar organizations,  
257 or persons, directly or indirectly, controls a gas company, electric  
258 distribution company, water company, telephone company, community  
259 antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise  
260 authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications  
261 provider [ ] or certified competitive video service provider, [or  
262 broadband Internet access service provider, as defined in section 16-  
263 330a,] and (2) "control" means the possession of the power to direct or  
264 cause the direction of the management and policies of a gas company,  
265 electric distribution company, water company, telephone company,  
266 community antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable  
267 franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified  
268 telecommunications provider, certified competitive video service  
269 provider [or broadband Internet access service provider, as defined in  
270 section 16-330a,] or a holding company, whether through the ownership

271 of its voting securities, the ability to effect a change in the composition  
272 of its board of directors or otherwise, provided, control shall not be  
273 deemed to arise solely from a revocable proxy or consent given to a  
274 person in response to a public proxy or consent solicitation made  
275 pursuant to and in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations  
276 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 unless a participant in said  
277 solicitation has announced an intention to effect a merger or  
278 consolidation with, reorganization, or other business combination or  
279 extraordinary transaction involving the gas company, electric  
280 distribution company, water company, telephone company, community  
281 antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise  
282 authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications  
283 provider, certified competitive video service provider [or broadband  
284 Internet access service provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] or the  
285 holding company. Control shall be presumed to exist if a person directly  
286 or indirectly owns ten per cent or more of the voting securities of a gas  
287 company, electric distribution company, water company, telephone  
288 company, community antenna television company, [holder of a  
289 certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p,  
290 certified telecommunications provider, certified competitive video  
291 service provider or broadband Internet access service provider, as  
292 defined in section 16-330a,] or a holding company, provided the  
293 authority may determine, after conducting a hearing, that said  
294 presumption of control has been rebutted by a showing that such  
295 ownership does not in fact confer control. For a holder of a certificate of  
296 cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified  
297 telecommunications provider or certified competitive video service  
298 provider, or the holding company thereof, control shall be presumed to  
299 exist if a person directly or indirectly owns more than forty per cent of  
300 the voting securities of such company, provided the authority may  
301 determine, after conducting a hearing, that such presumption of control  
302 has been rebutted by a showing that such ownership does not in fact  
303 confer control.

304 (b) (1) No gas company, electric distribution company, water

305 company, telephone company, community antenna television  
306 company, [holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant  
307 to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications provider, certified  
308 competitive video service provider or broadband Internet access service  
309 provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] or holding company thereof, or  
310 any official, board or commission purporting to act under any  
311 governmental authority other than that of this state or of its divisions,  
312 municipal corporations or courts, shall interfere or attempt to interfere  
313 with or, directly or indirectly, exercise or attempt to exercise authority  
314 or control over any gas company, electric distribution company, water  
315 company, telephone company [,] or community antenna television  
316 company [, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant  
317 to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications provider, certified  
318 competitive video service provider or broadband Internet access service  
319 provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] engaged in the business of  
320 supplying service within this state, or with or over any holding  
321 company doing the principal part of its business within this state,  
322 without first making written application to and obtaining the approval  
323 of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, except as the United States  
324 may properly regulate actual transactions in interstate commerce.

325 (2) No holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to  
326 section 16-331p, certified telecommunications provider or certified  
327 competitive video service provider, or any official, board or commission  
328 purporting to act under any governmental authority other than that of  
329 this state or of its divisions, municipal corporations or courts, shall  
330 interfere or attempt to interfere with or, directly or indirectly, exercise  
331 or attempt to exercise authority or control over any holder of a certificate  
332 of cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified  
333 telecommunications provider or certified competitive video service  
334 provider engaged in the business of supplying service within this state,  
335 without first making written application to and obtaining the approval  
336 of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, except as the United States  
337 may properly regulate actual transactions in interstate commerce or as  
338 set forth in subsection (j) of this section.

339 (c) (1) No corporation, association, partnership, trust or similar  
340 organization, or person shall take any action that causes it to become a  
341 holding company with control over a gas company, electric distribution  
342 company, water company, telephone company [,] or community  
343 antenna television company [, holder of a certificate of cable franchise  
344 authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications  
345 provider, certified competitive video service provider or broadband  
346 Internet access service provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] engaged  
347 in the business of supplying service within this state, or acquire, directly  
348 or indirectly, control over such a holding company, or take any action  
349 that would if successful cause it to become or to acquire control over  
350 such a holding company, without first making written application to  
351 and obtaining the approval of the authority.

352 (2) No corporation, association, partnership, trust or similar  
353 organization, or person, shall take any action that causes it to become a  
354 holding company with control over a holder of a certificate of cable  
355 franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified  
356 telecommunications provider or certified competitive video service  
357 provider engaged in the business of supplying service within this state,  
358 or acquire, directly or indirectly, control over such a holding company,  
359 or take any action that would if successful cause it to become or to  
360 acquire control over such a holding company, without first making  
361 written application to and obtaining the approval of the authority,  
362 except as the United States may properly regulate actual transactions in  
363 interstate commerce or as set forth in subsection (j) of this section.

364 (3) Any such corporation, association, partnership, trust or similar  
365 organization, or person, applying to the authority for such approval  
366 shall pay the reasonable expenses incurred by the authority in carrying  
367 out its duties under this subsection, and accordingly, shall deposit with  
368 the authority a bond, executed by a surety company authorized to do  
369 business in this state, in the amount of fifty thousand dollars,  
370 conditioned to indemnify the authority for such expenses.

371 (d) (1) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall investigate and

372 hold a public hearing on the question of granting its approval with  
373 respect to any application made under subdivision (1) of subsection (b)  
374 [or (c)] of this section or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section  
375 and thereafter may approve or disapprove any such application in  
376 whole or in part and upon such terms and conditions as it deems  
377 necessary or appropriate. In connection with its investigation, the  
378 authority may request the views of the gas company, electric  
379 distribution company, water company, telephone company, community  
380 antenna television company [, holder of a certificate of cable franchise  
381 authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications  
382 provider, certified competitive video service provider or broadband  
383 Internet access service provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] or  
384 holding company which is the subject of the application with respect to  
385 the proposed acquisition. After the filing of an application satisfying the  
386 requirements of such regulations as the authority may adopt in  
387 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, but not later than thirty  
388 business days after the filing of such application, the authority shall give  
389 prompt notice of the public hearing to the person required to file the  
390 application and to the subject company [, certificate holder, provider,]  
391 or holding company. Such hearing shall be commenced as promptly as  
392 practicable after the filing of the application, but not later than sixty  
393 business days after the filing. The authority shall make its determination  
394 as soon as practicable, but not later than two hundred days after the  
395 filing of the application, [except for applications filed by community  
396 antenna television companies, holders of a certificate of cable franchise  
397 authority pursuant to section 16-331p or certified competitive video  
398 service providers, which shall be determined not later than one hundred  
399 twenty days after filing,] unless the person required to file the  
400 application agrees to an extension of time or the authority extends the  
401 time as provided in this subsection. The authority may extend the time  
402 period for making its determination by not more than thirty days if,  
403 before the end of such time period, the authority notifies all parties and  
404 intervenors to the proceedings of such extension. The authority may, in  
405 its discretion, grant the subject company, certificate holder, provider or  
406 holding company the opportunity to participate in the hearing by

407 presenting evidence and oral and written argument. If the authority fails  
408 to give notice of its determination to hold a hearing, commence the  
409 hearing, or render its determination after the hearing within the time  
410 limits specified in this subdivision, the proposed acquisition shall be  
411 deemed approved. In each proceeding on a written application  
412 submitted under said subdivision (1) of subsection (b) [or (c)] of this  
413 section or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, the authority  
414 shall, in a manner which treats all parties to the proceeding on an equal  
415 basis, take into consideration (1) the financial, technological and  
416 managerial suitability and responsibility of the applicant, (2) the ability  
417 of the gas company, electric distribution company, water company,  
418 telephone company, community antenna television company [, holder  
419 of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p,  
420 certified telecommunications provider, certified competitive video  
421 service provider or broadband Internet access service provider, as  
422 defined in section 16-330a,] or holding company which is the subject of  
423 the application to provide safe, adequate and reliable service to the  
424 public through the company's [, certificate holder's or provider's] plant,  
425 equipment and manner of operation if the application were to be  
426 approved, and (3) for an application concerning a telephone company,  
427 the effect of approval on the location and accessibility of management  
428 and operations and on the proportion and number of state resident  
429 employees. The authority shall only grant its approval of an application  
430 filed on or after January 1, 2021, made under subsection (c) of this  
431 section, if the holding company effects a change in the composition of  
432 the board of directors to include a proportional percentage of  
433 Connecticut-based directors equivalent to the percentage that  
434 Connecticut service areas represent of the total service areas covered by  
435 the holding company.

436 (2) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall investigate and  
437 hold a public hearing on the question of granting its approval with  
438 respect to any application made under subdivision (2) of subsection (b)  
439 of this section or subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section and  
440 thereafter may approve or disapprove any such application in whole or

441 in part and upon such terms and conditions as it deems necessary or  
442 appropriate. In connection with its investigation, the authority may  
443 request the views of the subject certificate holder, provider or holding  
444 company which is the subject of the application with respect to the  
445 proposed acquisition. After the filing of an application satisfying the  
446 requirements of such regulations as the authority may adopt in  
447 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, but not later than thirty  
448 business days after the filing of such application, the authority shall give  
449 prompt notice of the public hearing to the person required to file the  
450 application and to the subject certificate holder, provider or holding  
451 company. Such hearing shall be commenced as promptly as practicable  
452 after the filing of the application, but not later than sixty business days  
453 after the filing, and the authority shall make its determination as soon  
454 as practicable, but not later than one-hundred-eighty days after the  
455 filing of the application, unless the person required to file the  
456 application agrees to an extension of time or the authority extends the  
457 time as provided in this subsection. The authority may extend the time  
458 period for making its determination by not more than thirty days if,  
459 before the end of such period, the authority notifies all parties and  
460 intervenors to the proceedings of such extension. Such authority-  
461 noticed extension may only occur once. The authority shall, upon  
462 request of the certificate holder, provider or holding company, grant the  
463 subject company or holding company the opportunity to participate in  
464 the hearing by presenting evidence and oral and written argument. If  
465 the authority fails to give notice of its determination to hold a hearing,  
466 commence the hearing or render its determination after the hearing  
467 within the time limits specified in this subdivision, the proposed  
468 acquisition shall be deemed approved. In each proceeding on a written  
469 application submitted under said subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this  
470 section or subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, the scope of  
471 review for the authority shall be limited to (A) the financial,  
472 technological and managerial suitability and responsibility of the  
473 applicant, and (B) the legal, financial and technical ability of the holder  
474 of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p,  
475 certified telecommunications provider, certified competitive video

476 service provider or holding company which is the subject of the  
477 application to provide safe, adequate and reliable service subject to the  
478 authority's regulation.

479 (e) During any proceeding under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) [or  
480 (c)] of this section or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, the  
481 authority may order any party to such proceeding and the officers,  
482 directors, employees and agents of such party to refrain for a specific  
483 time period from communicating, directly or indirectly, with the record  
484 and beneficial owners of securities of the gas company, electric  
485 distribution company, water company, telephone company, community  
486 antenna television company [, holder of a certificate of cable franchise  
487 authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications  
488 provider, certified competitive video service provider or broadband  
489 Internet access service provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] or  
490 holding company which is the subject of such proceedings, in regard to  
491 the matters submitted to the authority for its approval under said  
492 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section or subdivision (1) of  
493 subsection (c) of this section. If the authority issues such an order, it shall  
494 also order all other parties to the proceeding and the officers, directors,  
495 employees and agents of such parties to refrain for the same time period  
496 from communicating, directly or indirectly, with such record and  
497 beneficial owners of such securities, in regard to such matters. No order  
498 issued pursuant to this subsection shall prohibit any party from  
499 complying with disclosure and reporting obligations under any other  
500 provision of the general statutes or under federal law.

501 (f) Each holding company shall, not later than three months after the  
502 close of its fiscal year, annually, file with the authority a copy of its  
503 annual report to stockholders for such fiscal year. If the holding  
504 company does not print such an annual report, it shall file instead, not  
505 later than the same date, a comprehensive audit and report of its  
506 accounts and operations prepared by an independent public accounting  
507 firm approved by the authority. The provisions of this subsection shall  
508 not apply to any holding company in the form of a person.



509 (g) Any action contrary to the provisions of subsection (b) or (c) of  
510 this section shall be voidable on order of the authority.

511 (h) Whenever any corporation, association, partnership, trust or  
512 similar organization, or person takes or engages in any action which  
513 may or would violate subsection (b) or (c) of this section or any order  
514 adopted pursuant to said subsection (b) or (c), the Superior Court, upon  
515 application of the authority or any holding company or gas company,  
516 electric distribution company, water company, telephone company,  
517 community antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable  
518 franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified  
519 telecommunications provider [ ] or certified competitive video service  
520 provider [or broadband Internet access service provider, as defined in  
521 section 16-330a,] affected by such action, may enjoin any such  
522 corporation, association, partnership, trust or similar organization, or  
523 person from continuing or doing any act in violation of said subsection  
524 (b) or (c) or may otherwise enforce compliance with said subsection (b)  
525 or (c), including, but not limited to, the reinstatement of authority or  
526 control over the gas company, electric distribution company, water  
527 company, telephone company, community antenna television  
528 company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to  
529 section 16-331p, certified telecommunications provider, certified  
530 competitive video service provider [or broadband Internet access  
531 service provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] or holding company to  
532 those persons who exercised authority or control over such company,  
533 certificate holder or provider before such action.

534 (i) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require any  
535 person to make written application to or obtain the approval of the  
536 authority with respect to any telephone company or holding company  
537 of a telephone company over which such person exercises authority or  
538 control or operates as a holding company on June 30, 1987.

539 (j) Notwithstanding subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section or  
540 any other provision of the general statutes, a holder of a certificate of  
541 cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, a certified

542 telecommunications provider, a certified competitive video service  
543 provider or a holding company thereof shall not be required to make a  
544 written application to, or obtain the approval of, the Public Utilities  
545 Regulatory Authority with respect to any internal reorganization or  
546 restructuring of such certificate holder, provider or company that does  
547 not involve a change in the operational control or management of such  
548 certificate holder, provider or company."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	16-333m
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	16-47