



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 9940



Offered by:

SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

REP. D'AGOSTINO, 91st 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 and without requiring such
166 consumer to take any offline action to prevent such automatic renewal
167 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) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each
214 person doing business in this state that delivers or provides consumer
215 goods or services to consumers and issues, or causes to be issued,
216 consumer bills in an electronic form shall provide to any consumer, on
217 such consumer's request, consumer bills in paper form. No such person
218 shall impose, or cause to be imposed, any charge or fee for providing
219 any such consumer bill in paper form.

220 (2) No person doing business in this state that delivers or provides
221 consumer goods or services to consumers and issues, or causes to be
222 issued, consumer bills in an electronic form shall be required to provide
223 to any consumer, on such consumer's request, consumer bills in paper
224 form if such person does not, in the ordinary course of such person's
225 business, issue, or cause to be issued, consumer bills in paper form.

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

229 Sec. 3. Section 16-333m of the general statutes, as amended by section
230 18 of substitute senate bill 1058 of the current session, as amended by
231 Senate Amendment Schedule "A", is repealed and the following is
232 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

233 (a) No charge may be imposed by any community antenna television
234 company or certified competitive video service provider in any case
235 where a video service subscriber of such company or provider, as
236 applicable, requests a total disconnection of such service. No charge that
237 exceeds the cost to the company or provider may be imposed by any

238 such company or provider in any case in which the video service
239 subscriber requests a downgrade of such service.

240 (b) No company or provider may charge a subscriber for any video
241 service after the date that such subscriber requests disconnection,
242 downgrade or cancellation of such service, unless, in the case of a total
243 disconnection or any video service option requested to be eliminated,
244 the subscriber prevents the company or provider from disconnecting
245 such service within a reasonable time. If the subscriber makes such
246 request before the last day of the monthly billing period for such service,
247 such company or provider, as applicable, shall grant the subscriber a
248 pro rata rebate for all days of the monthly billing period after such
249 disconnection, downgrade or cancellation.

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

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

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

270 330a,] and (2) "control" means the possession of the power to direct or
271 cause the direction of the management and policies of a gas company,
272 electric distribution company, water company, telephone company,
273 community antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable
274 franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified
275 telecommunications provider, certified competitive video service
276 provider [or broadband Internet access service provider, as defined in
277 section 16-330a,] or a holding company, whether through the ownership
278 of its voting securities, the ability to effect a change in the composition
279 of its board of directors or otherwise, provided, control shall not be
280 deemed to arise solely from a revocable proxy or consent given to a
281 person in response to a public proxy or consent solicitation made
282 pursuant to and in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations
283 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 unless a participant in said
284 solicitation has announced an intention to effect a merger or
285 consolidation with, reorganization, or other business combination or
286 extraordinary transaction involving the gas company, electric
287 distribution company, water company, telephone company, community
288 antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise
289 authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications
290 provider, certified competitive video service provider [or broadband
291 Internet access service provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] or the
292 holding company. Control shall be presumed to exist if a person directly
293 or indirectly owns ten per cent or more of the voting securities of a gas
294 company, electric distribution company, water company, telephone
295 company, community antenna television company, [holder of a
296 certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p,
297 certified telecommunications provider, certified competitive video
298 service provider or broadband Internet access service provider, as
299 defined in section 16-330a,] or a holding company, provided the
300 authority may determine, after conducting a hearing, that said
301 presumption of control has been rebutted by a showing that such
302 ownership does not in fact confer control. For a holder of a certificate of
303 cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified
304 telecommunications provider or certified competitive video service

305 provider, or the holding company thereof, control shall be presumed to
306 exist if a person directly or indirectly owns more than forty per cent of
307 the voting securities of such company, provided the authority may
308 determine, after conducting a hearing, that such presumption of control
309 has been rebutted by a showing that such ownership does not in fact
310 confer control.

311 (b) (1) No gas company, electric distribution company, water
312 company, telephone company, community antenna television
313 company, [holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant
314 to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications provider, certified
315 competitive video service provider or broadband Internet access service
316 provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] or holding company thereof, or
317 any official, board or commission purporting to act under any
318 governmental authority other than that of this state or of its divisions,
319 municipal corporations or courts, shall interfere or attempt to interfere
320 with or, directly or indirectly, exercise or attempt to exercise authority
321 or control over any gas company, electric distribution company, water
322 company, telephone company [,] or community antenna television
323 company [, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant
324 to section 16-331p, certified telecommunications provider, certified
325 competitive video service provider or broadband Internet access service
326 provider, as defined in section 16-330a,] engaged in the business of
327 supplying service within this state, or with or over any holding
328 company doing the principal part of its business within this state,
329 without first making written application to and obtaining the approval
330 of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, except as the United States
331 may properly regulate actual transactions in interstate commerce.

332 (2) No holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to
333 section 16-331p, certified telecommunications provider or certified
334 competitive video service provider, or any official, board or commission
335 purporting to act under any governmental authority other than that of
336 this state or of its divisions, municipal corporations or courts, shall
337 interfere or attempt to interfere with or, directly or indirectly, exercise
338 or attempt to exercise authority or control over any holder of a certificate

339 of cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified
340 telecommunications provider or certified competitive video service
341 provider engaged in the business of supplying service within this state,
342 without first making written application to and obtaining the approval
343 of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, except as the United States
344 may properly regulate actual transactions in interstate commerce or as
345 set forth in subsection (j) of this section.

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

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

371 (3) Any such corporation, association, partnership, trust or similar

372 organization, or person, applying to the authority for such approval
373 shall pay the reasonable expenses incurred by the authority in carrying
374 out its duties under this subsection, and accordingly, shall deposit with
375 the authority a bond, executed by a surety company authorized to do
376 business in this state, in the amount of fifty thousand dollars,
377 conditioned to indemnify the authority for such expenses.

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

406 twenty days after filing,] unless the person required to file the
407 application agrees to an extension of time or the authority extends the
408 time as provided in this subsection. The authority may extend the time
409 period for making its determination by not more than thirty days if,
410 before the end of such time period, the authority notifies all parties and
411 intervenors to the proceedings of such extension. The authority may, in
412 its discretion, grant the subject company, certificate holder, provider or
413 holding company the opportunity to participate in the hearing by
414 presenting evidence and oral and written argument. If the authority fails
415 to give notice of its determination to hold a hearing, commence the
416 hearing, or render its determination after the hearing within the time
417 limits specified in this subdivision, the proposed acquisition shall be
418 deemed approved. In each proceeding on a written application
419 submitted under said subdivision (1) of subsection (b) [or (c)] of this
420 section or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, the authority
421 shall, in a manner which treats all parties to the proceeding on an equal
422 basis, take into consideration (1) the financial, technological and
423 managerial suitability and responsibility of the applicant, (2) the ability
424 of the gas company, electric distribution company, water company,
425 telephone company, community antenna television company [, holder
426 of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p,
427 certified telecommunications provider, certified competitive video
428 service provider or broadband Internet access service provider, as
429 defined in section 16-330a,] or holding company which is the subject of
430 the application to provide safe, adequate and reliable service to the
431 public through the company's [, certificate holder's or provider's] plant,
432 equipment and manner of operation if the application were to be
433 approved, and (3) for an application concerning a telephone company,
434 the effect of approval on the location and accessibility of management
435 and operations and on the proportion and number of state resident
436 employees. The authority shall only grant its approval of an application
437 filed on or after January 1, 2021, made under subdivision (1) of
438 subsection (c) of this section, if the holding company effects a change in
439 the composition of the board of directors to include a proportional
440 percentage of Connecticut-based directors equivalent to the percentage

441 that Connecticut service areas represent of the total service areas
442 covered by the holding company.

443 (2) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall investigate and
444 hold a public hearing on the question of granting its approval with
445 respect to any application made under subdivision (2) of subsection (b)
446 of this section or subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section and
447 thereafter may approve or disapprove any such application in whole or
448 in part and upon such terms and conditions as it deems necessary or
449 appropriate. In connection with its investigation, the authority may
450 request the views of the subject certificate holder, provider or holding
451 company which is the subject of the application with respect to the
452 proposed acquisition. After the filing of an application satisfying the
453 requirements of such regulations as the authority may adopt in
454 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, but not later than thirty
455 business days after the filing of such application, the authority shall give
456 prompt notice of the public hearing to the person required to file the
457 application and to the subject certificate holder, provider or holding
458 company. Such hearing shall be commenced as promptly as practicable
459 after the filing of the application, but not later than sixty business days
460 after the filing, and the authority shall make its determination as soon
461 as practicable, but not later than one-hundred-eighty days after the
462 filing of the application, unless the person required to file the
463 application agrees to an extension of time or the authority extends the
464 time as provided in this subsection. The authority may extend the time
465 period for making its determination by not more than thirty days if,
466 before the end of such period, the authority notifies all parties and
467 intervenors to the proceedings of such extension. Such authority-
468 noticed extension may only occur once. The authority shall, upon
469 request of the certificate holder, provider or holding company, grant the
470 subject company or holding company the opportunity to participate in
471 the hearing by presenting evidence and oral and written argument. If
472 the authority fails to give notice of its determination to hold a hearing,
473 commence the hearing or render its determination after the hearing
474 within the time limits specified in this subdivision, the proposed

475 acquisition shall be deemed approved. In each proceeding on a written
476 application submitted under said subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
477 section or subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, the scope of
478 review for the authority shall be limited to (A) the financial,
479 technological and managerial suitability and responsibility of the
480 applicant, and (B) the legal, financial and technical ability of the holder
481 of a certificate of cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p,
482 certified telecommunications provider, certified competitive video
483 service provider or holding company which is the subject of the
484 application to provide safe, adequate and reliable service subject to the
485 authority's regulation.

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

508 (f) Each holding company shall, not later than three months after the

509 close of its fiscal year, annually, file with the authority a copy of its
510 annual report to stockholders for such fiscal year. If the holding
511 company does not print such an annual report, it shall file instead, not
512 later than the same date, a comprehensive audit and report of its
513 accounts and operations prepared by an independent public accounting
514 firm approved by the authority. The provisions of this subsection shall
515 not apply to any holding company in the form of a person.

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

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

541 (i) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require any

542 person to make written application to or obtain the approval of the
 543 authority with respect to any telephone company or holding company
 544 of a telephone company over which such person exercises authority or
 545 control or operates as a holding company on June 30, 1987.

546 (j) Notwithstanding subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of this section or
 547 any other provision of the general statutes, a holder of a certificate of
 548 cable franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, a certified
 549 telecommunications provider, a certified competitive video service
 550 provider or a holding company thereof shall not be required to make a
 551 written application to, or obtain the approval of, the Public Utilities
 552 Regulatory Authority with respect to any internal reorganization or
 553 restructuring of such certificate holder, provider or company that does
 554 not involve a change in the operational control or management of such
 555 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