



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 364

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5358

House of Representatives, April 9, 2024

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

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

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy and
2 Environmental Protection shall conduct a study concerning the
3 feasibility of establishing a community geothermal pilot program. Not
4 later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall report, in accordance
5 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the results of
6 such study, including any recommendations, to the joint standing
7 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
8 relating to energy and technology.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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ET Joint Favorable

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to study and report on the feasibility of establishing a community geothermal pilot program by January 1, 2025. The department is currently engaged in the design of a community geothermal pilot program at an affordable housing complex and intends to apply for federal funding to construct the system.¹ The department has sufficient expertise and resources to complete a report that is limited to DEEP's experience with this pilot program. To the extent that the report may explore multi-owner community geothermal projects, a one-time cost of approximately \$500,000 for a consultant may be expected.

The Out Years

The bill has no fiscal impact in the out years.

¹ CT DEEP, Ulbrich Heights Community Geothermal Project. <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Energy/Ulbrich-Heights-Community-Geothermal-Project>

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5358

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/21/2024)