AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The state hereby declares a climate crisis to demonstrate the urgency for enacting meaningful climate legislation and to support increased efforts to secure federal funds to respond to such crisis. Such crisis threatens the resilience of communities in the state, regardless of zip code, multiple aspects of the state's natural resources and infrastructure assets, the state's economy and the quality of life for younger generations of state residents. Accordingly, the state recognizes the urgency to significantly and rapidly decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase community coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate change. The state recognizes the need and urgency to mitigate climate impacts and prepare for and manage disaster risk from climate change. Such declaration shall not authorize the Governor to utilize the provisions of this section to operate the government of the state through executive order.
Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) Each state agency shall have the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals: (1) A forty-five per cent reduction from 2001 levels by 2030; (2) a seventy per cent reduction from 2016 levels by 2040; and (3) achieving a level determined to be net-zero by 2050. For purposes of this subsection, "net-zero" has the same meaning as provided in section 22a-200 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) Each state agency shall have the goal of only utilizing zero-carbon generating electricity by 2030.

Sec. 3. Section 22a-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

As used in sections 22a-200 to 22a-200b, inclusive, as amended by this act, 22a-200d and 4a-67h:

(1) "Direct emissions" means emissions from sources that are owned or operated, in whole or in part, by an entity or facility, including, but not limited to, emissions from factory stacks, manufacturing processes and vents, and company owned or leased motor vehicles;

(2) "Entity" means a person, as defined in section 22a-2, that owns or operates, in whole or in part, a source of greenhouse gas emissions from a generator of electricity or a commercial or industrial site, which source may include, but not be limited to, a transportation fleet;

(3) "Facility" means a building, structure or installation located on any one or more contiguous or adjacent properties of an entity;

(4) "Greenhouse gas" means any chemical or physical substance that is emitted into the air and that the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may reasonably anticipate will cause or contribute to climate change, including, but not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride;

(5) "Indirect emissions" means emissions associated with the
consumption of purchased electricity, steam and heating or cooling by
an entity or facility;

(6) "Carbon sequestration" means the removal of greenhouse gases
from the atmosphere through nature-based solutions such as soils,
forests, wetlands or working or natural lands and through technological
solutions that have the primary purpose of removing greenhouse gases
from the atmosphere;

(7) "Net-zero" means a level of greenhouse gas reduction marked by
the complete offset of any greenhouse gases emitted by any greenhouse
gas emission reduction and carbon sequestration.

Sec. 4. Section 22a-200a of the general statutes is repealed and the
following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(a) The state shall reduce the level of emissions of greenhouse gas:

(1) Not later than January 1, 2020, to a level at least ten per cent below
the level emitted in 1990;

(2) Not later than January 1, 2030, to a level at least forty-five per cent
below the level emitted in 2001;

(3) Not later than January 1, 2040, to a level at least sixty-five per cent
below the level emitted in 2001, including to a level of zero per cent from
electricity supplied to electric customers in the state;

(4) Not later than January 1, 2050, to an economy-wide net-zero
level, taking into account carbon sequestration, provided direct and
indirect emissions of greenhouse gases are at least eighty per cent below
the level emitted in 2001; and

(5) All of the levels referenced in this subsection shall be determined
by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

(b) On or before January 1, 2010, and biannually thereafter, the state
agencies that are members of the Governor's Steering Committee on
Climate Change shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. The report shall identify existing and proposed activities and improvements to the facilities of such agencies that are designed to meet state agency energy savings goals established by the Governor. The report shall also identify policies and regulations that could be adopted in the near future by such agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

(c) (1) Not later than January 1, 2012, and every three years thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change, report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and transportation on the quantifiable emissions reductions achieved pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The report shall include a schedule of proposed regulations, policies and strategies, including, but not limited to, carbon sequestration, designed to achieve the limits of greenhouse gas emissions imposed by said subsection, an assessment of the latest scientific information and relevant data regarding global climate change and the status of greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts in other states and countries.

(2) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall enter into an agreement with a consultant for the preparation of a report to be submitted not later than January 1, 2026, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy. Such report shall: (A) Contain strategies for achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reductions required in subsection (a) of this section, (B) indicate whether a strategy to achieve such limits should include sector specific emission reduction targets and, if so, in what manner and order of priority such sector specific targets should be implemented, and (C) evaluate the adequacy
of the standards contained in section 16-245a. No recommendation contained in such report shall be implemented without the approval of each chamber of the General Assembly.

(d) At least one year prior to the effective date of any federally mandated greenhouse cap and trade program including greenhouse gas emissions subject to any state cap and trade requirements adopted pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and technology and transportation. Such report shall explain the differences between such federal and state requirements and shall identify any further regulatory or legislative actions needed to achieve consistency with such federal program.

(e) The failure to comply with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall constitute contributing to the unreasonable pollution or impairment of the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the state pursuant to section 22a-16.

Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 22a-200b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, with the advice and assistance of a nonprofit association organized to provide scientific, technical, analytical and policy support to the air quality and climate programs of northeastern states: (1) Not later than December 1, 2009, publish an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions to establish a baseline for such emissions for the state and publish a summary of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Internet web site, (2) not later than July 1, 2010, publish results of various modeling scenarios concerning greenhouse gas emissions, including, but not
limited to, an evaluation of the potential economic and environmental benefits and opportunities for economic growth based on such scenarios, (3) not later than July 1, 2011, analyze greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies and, after an opportunity for public comment, make recommendations on which such strategies will achieve the greenhouse gas emission levels specified in section 22a-200a, as amended by this act, and (4) not later than July 1, 2012, and every three years thereafter, develop, with an opportunity for public comment, a schedule of recommended regulatory actions by relevant agencies, policies and other actions necessary to make reasonable further progress towards achieving the greenhouse gas emission levels specified in section 22a-200a, as amended by this act, to attain the levels specified in said section by the relevant date provided. Such regulatory actions may include carbon sequestration.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a docket to determine how the state can phase out natural gas use in accordance with the goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act. Not later than January 1, 2026, the authority shall submit a report identifying any recommendations concerning legislative changes necessary to implement such goal to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, each state agency when considering any transportation infrastructure in the state or energy generation planning for the state and issuing any permit, license or administrative approval or decision for such infrastructure or energy generation, including, but not limited to, the execution of grants, loans and contracts, shall consider whether such decisions are inconsistent with or will interfere with the attainment of the state-wide greenhouse gas emissions limits established in section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. If the issuance of any such permit, license or administrative approval or decision is determined to be inconsistent with such
greenhouse gas emissions limits or may interfere with the achievement of such emissions limits, such state agency shall provide a detailed statement of the reasons why such emissions limits may not be achieved and identify greenhouse gas mitigation measures that could be implemented in connection with the issuance of such permit, license or administrative approval or decision.

Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Not later than October 1, 2025, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall publish on its Internet web site consolidated information on the cost and sources of electricity in the state and electric vehicle power source information as well as electric vehicle service and supply equipment. Such consolidated information shall additionally include, but not be limited to, information concerning Class I renewable energy deployments in the state, other distributed energy resources in the state, energy storage deployment in the state, the state's electricity and natural gas consumption, heating fuel consumption for the state by type of fuel, information on energy efficiency program participation, federal weatherization program participation information and information on efficiency barrier remediation program participation.

Sec. 9. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 32-7t of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2024):

(3) The commissioner, upon consideration of an application and any additional information, may approve an application in whole or in part or may approve an application with amendments, provided the commissioner shall give preference to applications that: (A) Make significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices, including, but not limited to, zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency, (B) are in sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, energy efficiency and zero-emission vehicles, or (C) are for farming operations that are sustainable from a climate perspective. If the commissioner disapproves an application, the commissioner shall identify the defects in such application and explain the specific reasons for the disapproval.
The commissioner shall render a decision on an application not later than ninety days after the date of its receipt by the commissioner.

Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, shall identify business fees that are appropriate for waiver for certified B corporations and farms that are environmentally sustainable. Not later than January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Revenue Services shall submit a list of such fees to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment.

Sec. 11. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) There is established a Connecticut Clean Economy Council that shall advise on strategies and policies to strengthen the state's climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability programs for the purpose of lowering emissions and advancing the state of economic and environmental justice for residents of the state.

(b) Such council shall meet not less than quarterly, at dates, times and locations to be established by the cochairpersons of such council. The council shall: (1) Identify opportunities to leverage state and federal funding to scale economic opportunities associated with clean energy, climate and sustainability investments and maximize local economic development benefits from investments needed to meet the climate and sustainability goals of the state, (2) ensure the state's workforce is trained to deliver climate and sustainability solutions and support equitable and diverse participation in climate and sustainability economic development opportunities from both diverse employers and diverse job seekers, (3) work with the Office of Workforce Strategy to increase workforce training in the clean energy sector with a goal of creating opportunities for populations that are underrepresented in the workforce such as residents of environmental justice communities, as defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes, women, minorities and formerly incarcerated persons, (4) develop a plan for transitioning workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs.
Such plan shall be submitted, not later than December 1, 2025, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, and (5) be consulted by the Governor and the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development on any state-wide economic action plan. The council may form working groups to address workforce development in specific sectors within the fields of clean energy and sustainability.

(c) Such council shall be comprised of the following members: (1) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson of the council, (2) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson of the council, (3) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, (4) the Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee, (5) the Commissioner of the Office of Workforce Strategy, or the commissioner's designee, (6) a representative from the office of the Governor, (7) the chief executive officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief executive officer's designee, (8) the chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, or the chief executive officer's designee; and (9) any other member so designated by the cochairpersons. Any member appointed pursuant to subdivision (9) of this subsection shall serve at the pleasure of the cochairpersons of the council.

(d) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

(e) Not later than June 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council shall report on its work, findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Office of Policy and Management and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and commerce, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.
Sec. 12. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Commissioners of Energy and Environmental Protection, Administrative Services and Economic and Community Development shall establish a pilot program to serve as a new business incubator for zero-carbon startup companies. Priority under such program shall be given to startup companies that help reduce plastic waste through the development of alternative packaging methods, the implementation of a plastics coding system that assists in making the recycling of plastics understandable to consumers or the development of nature-based plastic alternatives. Such pilot program shall utilize a state-owned facility that constitutes surplus state property that no state agency seeks to utilize and shall include entrepreneurial tenant benefits, including, but not limited to, rent-free workspaces for a period of not more than three years. Not later than February 1, 2026, said commissioners shall submit a report on the status of such pilot program, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment.

Sec. 13. Subsection (c) of section 16-244z of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2024):

(c) (1) (A) [The aggregate total megawatts available to all customers utilizing a procurement and tariff offered by electric distribution companies pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be up to eighty-five megawatts in year one and increase by up to an additional one hundred sixty megawatts per year on and after January 1, 2023, provided the] The total megawatts available to customers eligible under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed ten megawatts per year, the total megawatts available to customers eligible under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed one hundred megawatts per year and the total megawatts available to customers eligible under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed fifty megawatts per year. The authority shall monitor the competitiveness of any procurements authorized pursuant to
subsection (a) of this section and may adjust the annual purchase amount established in this subsection or other procurement parameters to maintain competitiveness. Any megawatts not allocated in any given year shall roll into the next year's available megawatts. The obligation to purchase energy and renewable energy certificates shall be apportioned as determined by the authority. Notwithstanding any provision of this subparagraph, each procurement and tariff program authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may exceed the limits on available megawatts described in this subparagraph, from January 1, 2025, until the date that federal funding available under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, P.L. 117-169 to finance or provide tax incentives for projects within such program is exhausted.

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

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

(2) The department, in consultation with the authority, shall assess the tariff offerings pursuant to this section and determine if such offerings are competitive compared to the cost of the technologies and shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, the results of such determination to the General Assembly not later than January 15, 2027.

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

Sec. 14. (Effective July 1, 2024) The Public Utilities Regulatory
Authority shall expand the energy storage program established by the
authority in Docket No. 17-12-03RE03. The authority shall: (1) Increase
the cumulative storage deployment target for such program to one
thousand megawatts; and (2) increase the size of incentives under the
program if it concludes that such increase is reasonable, prudent and
provides value to ratepayers.

Sec. 15. Section 10-285a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
is amended by adding subsection (l) as follows (Effective July 1, 2024):

(NEW) (l) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for a
school building project grant, including, but not limited to, any
renovation, for the installation of a renewable energy or energy
efficiency project, shall be increased by ten percentage points.

Sec. 16. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2024) Not later than January 1,
2025, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, shall submit a
report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
cognizance of matters relating to the environment on recommendations
for amendments to section 16a-48 of the general statutes to provide for
the sale and installation in the state of heating, ventilation and air
conditioning systems and hot water heating systems that do not emit
greenhouse gases. Such recommendations shall include, but not be
limited to, suggested implementation dates for any such requirement
and proposed consumer education efforts to inform the public about
such systems.

Sec. 17. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2024) The Commissioner of Energy
and Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Public Utilities
Regulatory Authority and the Connecticut Green Bank, shall develop
and implement a plan for the installation of not less than three hundred
ten thousand heat pumps for residential heating systems in the state, including, but not limited to, through any program established pursuant to section 8-240a, 16a-40b, 16a-40l or 16a-46m of the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy on the status of such plan in reaching such goal and any attendant recommendations for expanding or revising such plan.

Sec. 18. Subsection (g) of section 8-23 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(g) (1) Any municipal plan of conservation and development scheduled for adoption on or after July 1, 2015, shall identify the general location and extent of any [(1)] (A) areas served by existing sewerage systems, [(2)] (B) areas where sewerage systems are planned, and [(3)] (C) areas where sewers are to be avoided. In identifying such areas, the commission shall consider the provisions of this section and the priority funding area provisions of chapter 297a.

(2) Any municipal plan of conservation and development scheduled for adoption on or after July 1, 2024, shall evaluate environmental sustainability and climate resiliency for such municipality.

Sec. 19. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Not later than October 1, 2024, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall develop a model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities may voluntarily utilize and implement.

Sec. 20. Subsection (e) of section 7-536 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2024):

(e) (1) Each municipality may apply to the secretary for project authorization and expense reimbursement of local capital improvement
projects.

(2) Notwithstanding the deadlines imposed by this section, each municipality that has expended funds in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, on projects listed in subparagraphs (T) to (X), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section may apply to the secretary for reimbursement of such expenses.

(3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of this section, the secretary, at the secretary's discretion, may authorize expense reimbursement for a project listed in subparagraphs (T) to (Y), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section prior to such project's inclusion on the local capital improvement plan adopted by a municipality. The secretary may require certification from the municipality that such municipality is taking steps to amend its local capital improvement plan to include such project.

(B) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, for the period commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, the secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any project listed in subparagraph (Y) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section from funds appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management for such projects.

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, for the period commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, the secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any municipality that implements the Office of Policy and Management's model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing from funds appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management for such purpose.

Sec. 21. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Notwithstanding title 4b of the general statutes, any new or existing state building shall either be constructed utilizing electrical systems that are not reliant upon fossil fuels or greenhouse gas emissions for operation or, upon renovation, retrofitted to utilize such electrical systems provided funding is
available for such purpose.

Sec. 22. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The Commissioner of
Energy and Environmental Protection shall prepare a report that
outlines a proposed plan and program for advancing nature-based
solutions in the state that support climate mitigation and adaptation.
Such report shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the
associated funding needs for such plan, an identification of potential
federal, state, or other funding sources and a proposed timeline for
implementation of such plan, provided such plan shall be implemented
not later than July 1, 2025. Not later than December 31, 2024, the
commissioner, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes,
shall submit such report to the joint standing committee of the General
Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment.

(b) The nature-based solutions program described in subsection (a)
of this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1)
Increasing carbon sequestration through increased forest extent,
including reforestation, (2) controlling invasive species, (3) growing
forests to greater maturity, (4) protecting carbon stocks through the
avoided conversion of forests and wetlands to other purposes, (5)
restoring coastal habitats, and (6) increasing climate-smart agriculture
and soil conservation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while
improving habitat and protecting biodiversity.

(c) The nature-based solutions program described in subsection (a) of
this section may include, but shall not be limited to, the following: (1)
Acquisition of land and conservation easements to provide upslope
advancement zones adjacent to tidal marshes, (2) a comprehensive
modeling assessment of the extent of inland migration of tidal marshes
needed to inform adaptation decisions, (3) the acquisition of land and
conservation easements in riparian areas adjacent to cold water streams,
(4) the adoption or amendment of regulations, in accordance with
chapter 54 of the general statutes, that provide stream flow levels
necessary to ensure the resilience and ecological integrity of cold water
streams, (5) increasing active management of upland forests to improve
regeneration, diversity and resilience, (6) collaborating with other northeast states and federal agencies to develop a coordinated regional adaptation approach for the conservation of habitats and species at risk, and (7) advancing connectivity among habitats.

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**Statement of Purpose:**
To implement certain measures relating to climate change including advancing and implementing the state’s goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the phasing out of the use of natural gas, investment in renewable energy and green economy startup businesses, incentivizing sustainable purchasing by local governments and the enhancement of nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change.

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