



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 5600



Offered by:

SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.

REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 385

File No. 351

Cal. No. 236

"AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY PROCUREMENTS."

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

3 "Section 1. Section 16a-3m of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

5 (a) For the purposes of this section:

6 (1) "Best interest of ratepayers" means the benefits of a contract or
7 proposal outweigh the costs to electric ratepayers, based on whether the
8 delivered prices of sources included in such contract or proposal are less
9 than the forecasted price of energy and capacity, as determined by the
10 commissioner or the commissioner's designee, and based on a
11 consideration of the following factors, as determined by the
12 commissioner or the commissioner's designee: (A) Impacts on electric
13 system operations and reliability; (B) the extent to which such contract
14 or proposal will contribute to (i) the local sourcing requirement set by

15 the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1,
16 and (ii) meeting the requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
17 and improve air quality in accordance with sections 16-245a, 22a-174
18 and 22a-200a; (C) fuel diversity; and (D) whether the proposal is aligned
19 with the policy goals outlined in the Integrated Resources Plan
20 developed pursuant to section 16a-3a and the Comprehensive Energy
21 Strategy developed pursuant to section 16a-3d, including, but not
22 limited to, environmental impacts; and

23 (2) "Eligible nuclear power generating facility" means a nuclear
24 power generating facility that is located in the control area of the
25 regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, and is
26 licensed to operate through January 1, 2030, or later.

27 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and
28 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall (1) conduct an appraisal
29 regarding nuclear power generating facilities in accordance with
30 subsection (c) of this section, and (2) determine whether a solicitation
31 process for nuclear power generating facilities shall be conducted
32 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. On or before February 1, 2018,
33 the commissioner and the authority shall report, in accordance with
34 section 11-4a, the results of the appraisal and the selection conducted
35 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section to the General Assembly. If the
36 General Assembly does not reject such results by a simple majority vote
37 in each house on or before March 1, 2018, such results shall be deemed
38 approved.

39 (c) The appraisal conducted pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection
40 (b) of this section shall assess: (1) The current economic condition of
41 nuclear generating facilities located in the control area of the regional
42 independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1; (2) the
43 projected economic condition of nuclear power generating facilities
44 located in the control area of the regional independent system operator,
45 as defined in section 16-1; (3) the impact on the following considerations
46 if such nuclear power generating facilities retire before July 1, 2027: (A)
47 Electric markets, fuel diversity, energy security and grid reliability, (B)

48 the state's greenhouse gas emissions mandated levels established
49 pursuant to section 22a-200a, and (C) the state, regional and local
50 economy.

51 (d) After completing the appraisal, if the results of such appraisal
52 demonstrate that action is necessary, the commissioner shall act and
53 may issue one or more solicitations, in consultation with the
54 procurement manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-2 and the
55 Office of Consumer Counsel established in section 16-2a, for zero-
56 carbon electricity generating resources, including, but not limited to,
57 eligible nuclear power [generation] generating facilities, hydropower,
58 Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and energy
59 storage systems, provided (1) the total annual energy output of any
60 proposals selected, in the aggregate, shall be not more than twelve
61 million megawatt hours of electricity, (2) any agreement entered into
62 pursuant to this subdivision with an eligible nuclear power [generation]
63 generating facility or hydropower shall be for a period of not less than
64 three years and not more than ten years, and (3) any agreement entered
65 into pursuant to this subdivision with Class I renewable energy sources,
66 as defined in section 16-1, and energy storage systems shall be for a
67 period of not more than twenty years. On or before May 1, 2018, if the
68 results of such appraisal demonstrate that one or more solicitations
69 pursuant to this subsection are necessary, the commissioner shall
70 initiate such solicitation process pursuant to this subsection, in
71 accordance with subsection (e) of this section, provided any changes
72 made, contracts entered into or agreements entered into are in the best
73 interest of ratepayers.

74 (e) (1) Any solicitation issued pursuant to subsection (d) of this
75 section for zero-carbon electricity generating resources, including, but
76 not limited to, eligible nuclear power [generation] generating facilities,
77 hydropower, Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-
78 1, and energy storage systems, shall be for resources delivered into the
79 control area of the regional independent system operator, as defined in
80 section 16-1, and any agreement entered into pursuant to subdivision
81 (2) of this subsection shall be in the best interest of ratepayers. If the

82 commissioner finds proposals received pursuant to such solicitations to
83 be in the best interest of ratepayers, the commissioner may select any
84 such proposal or proposals, provided (A) the total annual energy output
85 of any proposals selected, in the aggregate, shall be not more than
86 twelve million megawatt hours of electricity, (B) any agreement entered
87 into pursuant to this subdivision with an eligible nuclear power
88 [generation] generating facility or hydropower shall be for a period of
89 not less than three years and not more than ten years, and (C) any
90 agreement entered into pursuant to this subdivision with Class I
91 renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and energy storage
92 systems shall be for a period of not more than twenty years.

93 (2) If the commissioner has made the determination and finding
94 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall,
95 on behalf of all customers of electric distribution companies, direct the
96 electric distribution companies to enter into agreements for energy,
97 capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof,
98 from proposals submitted pursuant to this subdivision.

99 (3) Any agreement entered into pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
100 subsection shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities
101 Regulatory Authority. The electric distribution company shall file an
102 application for the approval of any such agreement with the authority.
103 The authority's review shall commence upon the filing of the signed
104 power purchase agreement with the authority. The authority shall
105 approve agreements that it determines (A) provide for the delivery of
106 adequate and reliable products and services, for which there is a clear
107 public need, at a just and reasonable price, (B) are prudent and cost
108 effective, and (C) that the respondent to the solicitation has the technical,
109 financial and managerial capabilities to perform pursuant to such
110 agreement. For any eligible nuclear power generating facility selected in
111 any solicitation described in subsection (g) of this section, the authority
112 shall require any such agreement to be conditioned upon the approval
113 of such a power purchase agreement or other agreement for energy,
114 capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof,
115 with such eligible nuclear power generating facility, in at least two other

116 states, by the applicable officials of such states or by electric utilities or
117 other entities designated by the applicable officials of such states. The
118 authority shall issue a decision not later than one hundred eighty days
119 after such filing. If the authority does not issue a decision within one
120 hundred eighty days after such filing, the agreement shall be deemed
121 approved. The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred
122 by the electric distribution company under the agreement and
123 reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution company in
124 connection with the agreement, shall be recovered on a timely basis
125 through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of electric rates
126 for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any net revenues
127 from the sale of products purchased in accordance with long-term
128 contracts entered into pursuant to this [section] subsection shall be
129 credited to customers through the same nonbypassable fully reconciling
130 rate component for all customers of the contracting electric distribution
131 company.

132 (f) Each person owning and operating a nuclear power generating
133 facility in the state shall pay a pro rata share of all reasonable costs
134 associated with the department's appraisal pursuant to subsection (c) of
135 this section, determination pursuant to subsection (d) of this section,
136 and actions taken pursuant to subsection (e) of this section in an amount
137 not to exceed one million dollars.

138 (g) Any solicitation issued pursuant to this section on or after July 1,
139 2024, for eligible nuclear power generating facilities shall be conducted
140 in coordination with two or more other states in the control area of the
141 regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1 of the
142 general statutes. The commissioner may not direct any electric
143 distribution company to enter into an agreement with an eligible
144 nuclear power generating facility pursuant to this section unless the
145 applicable officials of at least two such states select a proposal for
146 energy, capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination
147 thereof, from an eligible nuclear power generating facility in response
148 to such coordinated solicitation. The commissioner may revise the
149 appraisal conducted pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section

150 in a manner determined by the commissioner and in furtherance of any
151 such solicitation, at the commissioner's discretion.

152 Sec. 2. Section 16a-3n of the general statutes is repealed and the
153 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

154 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
155 in consultation with the procurement manager identified in subsection
156 (l) of section 16-2, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Attorney
157 General, may, in coordination with other states in the control area of the
158 regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, in
159 coordination with states in a neighboring control area or on behalf of
160 Connecticut alone, solicit proposals, in one solicitation or multiple
161 solicitations, from providers of energy derived from offshore wind
162 facilities that are Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section
163 16-1, and any associated transmission, provided the commissioner shall
164 initiate a solicitation not later than fourteen days after the effective date
165 of this section for projects that have a total nameplate capacity rating of
166 up to two thousand megawatts in the aggregate. Any such solicitation
167 or solicitations issued pursuant to this section on and after January 1,
168 2020, shall be for quantities of energy and within the timing and
169 schedule determined by the commissioner, and may be informed by the
170 Integrated Resources Plan prepared on or before January 1, 2020,
171 pursuant to subsections (b) and (j) of section 16a-3a, provided such
172 schedule shall provide for the solicitation of resources with a nameplate
173 capacity rating of two thousand megawatts in the aggregate by
174 December 31, 2030.

175 (2) In developing any solicitations pursuant to this section, the
176 commissioner shall include requirements for contract commitments in
177 selected bids that (A) require payment of not less than the prevailing
178 wage, as described in section 31-53, for laborers, workmen and
179 mechanics performing construction activities within the United States
180 with respect to the project, and (B) require selected bidders to engage in
181 a good faith negotiation of a project labor agreement. Any solicitation
182 issued pursuant to this section shall specify the minimum terms that

183 such project labor agreements shall address.

184 (3) In any solicitation initiated pursuant to this section on or after July
185 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
186 shall include requirements for contract commitments in selected bids
187 that require bidders selected pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
188 including any providers of associated transmission, when employing or
189 contracting with fishermen for support services such as scouting for
190 fishing gear or serving as a safety vessel in a construction zone, for any
191 project selected by the state or in proportion to the state share of any
192 project selected by multiple states or other entities, to use best efforts to
193 award such contracts or employment to state commercial fishing
194 licensees, all other factors being equal. Such requirements shall include:
195 (A) The maintenance of records that document the use of such best
196 efforts and the filing of a monthly report with the Department of
197 Economic and Community Development that describes such best
198 efforts, on a form prescribed by said department; and (B) a provision
199 that any fishermen that such providers employ or contract with to
200 provide support services shall: (i) Meet training and certification
201 standards described in the International Convention on Standards of
202 Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, as amended
203 from time to time; and (ii) prior to providing any such support services,
204 undergo inspection in accordance with the International Marine
205 Contractors Association's marine inspection for small workboats
206 inspection document. The Coast Guard or any inspector accredited
207 through the accredited vessel inspector program operated by the Marine
208 Surveying Academy of the International Institute of Marine Surveying
209 may conduct such an inspection.

210 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) (A) In responding to any solicitations issued pursuant to this
211 section, a bidder shall include an environmental and fisheries mitigation
212 plan for the construction and operation of such offshore wind facilities,
213 provided such plan shall include, but not be limited to, an explicit
214 description of the best management practices the bidder will employ
215 that are informed by the latest science at the time the proposal is made
216 that will avoid, minimize and mitigate any impacts to wildlife, natural

217 resources, ecosystems and traditional or existing water-dependent uses,
218 including, but not limited to, commercial fishing.

219 (B) In responding to any solicitations issued pursuant to this section,
220 a bidder may include such bidder's plans for the use of skilled labor,
221 including, but not limited to, for any construction and manufacturing
222 components of the proposal including any outreach, hiring and referral
223 systems, or any combination thereof, that are affiliated with an
224 apprenticeship training program registered with the Labor Department
225 pursuant to section 31-22r.

226 (C) In responding to any solicitations issued pursuant to this section
227 in calendar year 2019, each bidder shall submit at least one proposal for
228 resources eligible pursuant to this section with a nameplate capacity
229 rating of four hundred megawatts. The commissioner may not consider
230 or select any proposals from a bidder that does not submit at least one
231 proposal for resources with a nameplate capacity of four hundred
232 megawatts for any solicitation issued pursuant to this section in
233 calendar year 2019.

234 [(4)] (5) For each solicitation issued pursuant to this section, the
235 commissioner shall establish a commission on environmental standards
236 to provide input on best practices for avoiding, minimizing and
237 mitigating any impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems and
238 traditional or existing water-dependent uses, including, but not limited
239 to, commercial fishing, during the construction and operation of
240 facilities eligible pursuant to this section.

241 (b) In making any selection of such proposals, the commissioner shall
242 consider factors, including, but not limited to, (1) whether the proposal
243 is in the best interest of ratepayers, including, but not limited to, the
244 delivered price of such sources, (2) whether the proposal promotes
245 electric distribution system reliability, including during winter peak
246 demand, (3) any positive impacts on the state's economic development,
247 (4) whether the proposal is consistent with the requirements to reduce
248 greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with section 22a-200a, (5)

249 whether the proposal is consistent with the policy goals outlined in the
250 Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d
251 and the Integrated Resources Plan adopted pursuant to section 16a-3a,
252 (6) whether the proposal is consistent with the goals and policies set
253 forth in sections 22a-92 and 25-157t, and (7) whether the proposal uses
254 practices to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to wildlife, natural
255 resources, ecosystems and traditional or existing water-dependent uses,
256 including, but not limited to, commercial fishing. In considering
257 whether a proposal has any positive impacts on the state's economic
258 development, the commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of
259 Economic and Community Development. The commissioner may select
260 proposals from such resources that have a total nameplate capacity
261 rating of not more than two thousand megawatts in the aggregate.

262 (c) The commissioner may direct the electric distribution companies
263 to enter into power purchase agreements for energy, capacity, any
264 transmission associated with such energy derived from offshore wind
265 facilities that are Class I renewable energy sources as defined in section
266 16-1 and environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, for
267 periods of not more than twenty years on behalf of all customers of the
268 state's electric distribution companies, except the commissioner may
269 direct such companies to enter into such agreements for periods greater
270 than twenty years and not more than thirty years if the commissioner
271 conducts the solicitation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in
272 coordination with one or more states and, in response to such
273 coordinated solicitation, the applicable officials of any such state select
274 a proposal for energy, capacity and any environmental attributes, or any
275 combination thereof, from such facilities for a period that is greater than
276 twenty years and not more than thirty years. Certificates issued by the
277 New England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class
278 I renewable energy sources procured by an electric distribution
279 company pursuant to this section may be: (1) Sold into the New England
280 Power Pool Generation Information System renewable energy credit
281 market to be used by any electric supplier or electric distribution
282 company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a, provided the

283 revenues from such sale are credited to electric distribution company
284 customers as described in this section; or (2) retained by the electric
285 distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a. In
286 considering whether to sell or retain such certificates, the company shall
287 select the option that is in the best interest of such company's ratepayers.

288 (d) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be
289 subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory
290 Authority, which review shall be completed not later than (1) ninety
291 days after the date on which such agreement is filed with the authority
292 for any solicitation issued pursuant to this section in calendar year 2019,
293 and (2) one hundred twenty days for any solicitation issued pursuant to
294 this section on and after January 1, 2020. The authority shall approve
295 agreements that it determines (A) provide for the delivery of adequate
296 and reliable products and services, for which there is a clear public need,
297 at a just and reasonable price, (B) are prudent and cost effective, and (C)
298 are between an electric distribution company and a respondent to the
299 solicitation that has the technical, financial and managerial capabilities
300 to perform pursuant to such agreement. The net costs of any such
301 agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution
302 companies under the agreement and reasonable costs incurred by the
303 electric distribution companies in connection with the agreement, shall
304 be recovered through a fully reconciling component of electric rates for
305 all customers of electric distribution companies. Any net revenues from
306 the sale of products purchased in accordance with long-term contracts
307 entered into pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
308 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
309 the contracting electric distribution company. The commissioner may
310 hire consultants with expertise in quantitative modeling of electric and
311 gas markets to assist in implementing this section, including, but not
312 limited to, the evaluation of proposals submitted pursuant to this
313 section. All reasonable costs associated with the commissioner's
314 solicitation and review of proposals pursuant to this section shall be
315 recoverable through the same fully reconciling rate component for all
316 customers of the electric distribution companies.

317 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 16-243q of the general statutes is
318 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
319 *2024*):

320 (a) (1) On and after January 1, 2007, each electric distribution
321 company providing standard service pursuant to section 16-244c and
322 each electric supplier, as defined in section 16-1, shall demonstrate to
323 the satisfaction of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority that not less
324 than one per cent of the total output of such supplier or such standard
325 service of an electric distribution company shall be obtained from Class
326 III sources.

327 (2) On and after January 1, 2008, not less than two per cent of the total
328 output of any such supplier or such standard service of an electric
329 distribution company shall, on demonstration satisfactory to the Public
330 Utilities Regulatory Authority, be obtained from Class III sources. On or
331 after January 1, 2009, not less than three per cent of the total output of
332 any such supplier or such standard service of an electric distribution
333 company shall, on demonstration satisfactory to the Public Utilities
334 Regulatory Authority, be obtained from Class III sources.

335 (3) On and after January 1, 2010, not less than four per cent of the total
336 output of any such supplier or such standard service of an electric
337 distribution company shall, on demonstration satisfactory to the Public
338 Utilities Regulatory Authority, be obtained from Class III sources.

339 (4) On and after January 1, 2022, until December 31, [2024] 2029, not
340 less than five per cent of the total output of any such supplier or such
341 standard service of an electric distribution company shall, on
342 demonstration satisfactory to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority,
343 be obtained from Class III sources, except that with respect to any retail
344 electric supply contract that was entered into or renewed on or after
345 January 1, 2023, but prior to July 1, 2024, not less than four per cent of
346 the total output of any such supplier with respect to such contract shall
347 be obtained from Class III sources. Such exception shall be in effect on
348 and after July 1, 2024, until January 1, 2026, or the date that any such

349 contract is renewed, whichever is earlier.

350 (5) Electric power obtained from customer-side distributed resources
351 that does not meet air and water quality standards of the Department of
352 Energy and Environmental Protection is not eligible for purposes of
353 meeting the percentage standards in this section.

354 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) On or after July 1, 2024, the
355 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation
356 with the procurement manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-
357 2 of the general statutes, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the
358 Attorney General, may solicit proposals, in one solicitation or multiple
359 solicitations, from providers of instantaneous run-of-the-river
360 hydropower that is interconnected with the electric distribution system.
361 In making any selection of such proposals, the commissioner shall
362 consider factors, including, but not limited to: (1) Whether the proposal
363 is in the interest of ratepayers, including, but not limited to, the
364 delivered price of any electricity, capacity or environmental attributes
365 that are procured pursuant to such solicitation; (2) the emissions profile
366 of such provider's facilities that generate such hydropower; (3) any
367 investments that such provider has made or is anticipated to make in
368 improving such facility's emissions profile or environmental
369 performance, such as investments related to water quality, water flow
370 or fish passage; (4) any positive impacts on the state's economic
371 development; (5) whether the proposal is consistent with the policy
372 goals outlined in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant
373 to section 16a-3d of the general statutes; and (6) whether the proposal
374 functions as a load-reducing resource or promotes electric distribution
375 system reliability and other electric distribution system benefits,
376 including, but not limited to, microgrids. The commissioner shall not
377 allow any such proposal to be based on a new dam or a dam identified
378 by the commissioner as a candidate for removal. Any such proposal
379 shall meet applicable state and federal requirements, including state
380 dam safety requirements and applicable site-specific standards for
381 water quality and fish passage.

382 (b) Not later than December 31, 2025, the commissioner may select
383 proposals from such providers of instantaneous run-of-the-river
384 hydropower. Facilities generating such hydropower shall have a total
385 nameplate capacity rating of not more than twenty megawatts in the
386 aggregate. The commissioner may direct the electric distribution
387 companies to enter into power purchase agreements for energy,
388 capacity and environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, for
389 periods of not more than twenty years on behalf of all customers of the
390 state's electric distribution companies. Any certificates issued by the
391 New England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class
392 I renewable energy sources procured under this section may be: (1) Sold
393 in the New England Power Pool Generation Information System
394 renewable energy credit market to be used by any electric supplier or
395 electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-
396 245a of the general statutes, provided the revenues from such sale are
397 credited to all customers of the contracting electric distribution
398 company; or (2) retained by the electric distribution company to meet
399 the requirements of section 16-245a of the general statutes. In
400 considering whether to sell or retain such certificates, the company shall
401 select the option that is in the best interest of such company's ratepayers.
402 Any such agreement shall be subject to review and approval by the
403 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, which review shall be completed
404 not later than one hundred eighty days after the date on which such
405 agreement is filed with the authority. The net costs of any such
406 agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution
407 companies under the agreement and reasonable costs incurred by the
408 electric distribution companies in connection with the agreement, shall
409 be recovered through a fully reconciling component of electric rates for
410 all customers of electric distribution companies. All reasonable costs
411 incurred by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
412 associated with the commissioner's solicitation and review of proposals
413 pursuant to this section shall be recoverable through the nonbypassable,
414 federally mandated congestion charges, as defined in section 16-1 of the
415 general statutes.

416 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,
417 each gas company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, shall
418 institute a program to provide a rebate to any customers of such
419 company that use natural gas for a shared clean energy facility, as
420 defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-244z of the
421 general statutes, that was selected in a solicitation pursuant to said
422 subsection on or before December 31, 2023. The amount of such rebate
423 shall equal the retail delivery charge that such company charges such
424 customer for transporting natural gas to such shared clean energy
425 facility. Such company may recover the costs of providing such rebates
426 through such company's decoupling mechanism pursuant to section 16-
427 19tt of the general statutes. The authority may adopt regulations, in
428 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
429 implement the provisions of this section.

430 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
431 section:

432 (1) "Existing biomass power purchase agreement" means a power
433 purchase agreement that: (A) (i) was entered into by a biomass facility
434 that is a Class I renewable energy source with an electric distribution
435 company in the state on or before June 5, 2013, or (ii) was executed in
436 accordance with a solicitation pursuant to section 16a-3f of the general
437 statutes or 16a-3h of the general statutes; and (B) was in effect as of
438 January 1, 2024.

439 (2) "Eligible biomass facility" means a biomass facility that is a Class
440 I renewable energy source and that has entered into one or more existing
441 biomass power purchase agreements.

442 (3) "Additional biomass power purchase agreement" means a
443 biomass power purchase agreement that is entered into by an eligible
444 biomass facility and an electric distribution company pursuant to
445 subdivision (b) of this section, for the fraction of energy, capacity and
446 environmental attributes of an eligible biomass facility that was
447 contracted for under an existing biomass power purchase agreement

448 between such biomass facility and such electric distribution company.

449 (4) "Class I renewable energy source", "electric distribution company"
450 and "electric supplier" have the same meanings as provided in section
451 16-1 of the general statutes.

452 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
453 direct any electric distribution company to enter into one or more
454 additional biomass power purchase agreements with any eligible
455 biomass facility. Any such additional power purchase agreement shall
456 be for a period of ten years. Certificates issued by the New England
457 Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable
458 energy sources procured by an electric distribution company pursuant
459 to this section may be: (1) Sold into the New England Power Pool
460 Generation Information System renewable energy credit market to be
461 used by any electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet
462 the requirements of section 16-245a of the general statutes, provided the
463 revenues from such sale are credited to all customers of the contracting
464 electric distribution company; or (2) retained by such electric
465 distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a of the
466 general statutes. In considering whether to sell or retain such
467 certificates, the company shall select the option that is in the best interest
468 of such company's ratepayers.

469 (c) Any additional biomass power purchase agreement entered into
470 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to review and
471 approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. Such electric
472 distribution company shall file an application for the approval of any
473 such additional biomass power purchase agreement with the authority.
474 The authority shall issue a decision not later than one hundred eighty
475 days after any such filing. If the authority does not issue a decision
476 within one hundred eighty days after such filing, such additional
477 biomass power purchase agreement shall be deemed approved.

478 (d) The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by
479 the electric distribution companies under the agreement and reasonable

480 costs incurred by any electric distribution company in connection with
481 the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully reconciling
482 component of electric rates for all customers of such electric distribution
483 company.

484 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
485 examine and make recommendations concerning policy, regulations
486 and legislation to improve disclosure requirements and consumer
487 protection for consumers who purchase, lease or enter into power
488 purchase agreements for solar photovoltaic systems. Such study shall
489 include an examination of whether special protections are necessary for
490 consumers who are low-income or senior citizens.

491 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

492 (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
493 the commissioner's designee;

494 (2) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or
495 the chairperson's designee;

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

497 (4) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's
498 designee;

499 (5) The president of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the president's
500 designee;

501 (6) Two appointed by the Governor, who shall be members of an
502 association that represents retailers of solar photovoltaic systems in the
503 state or retailers of solar photovoltaic systems in the state.

504 (7) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
505 one of whom shall have experience representing senior citizens in
506 matters related to consumer protection or utilities;

507 (8) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of

508 whom shall have experience representing consumer groups, especially
509 in underserved communities;

510 (9) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
511 Representatives;

512 (10) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

513 (11) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
514 Representatives; and

515 (12) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

516 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
517 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
518 be filled by the appointing authority.

519 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
520 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force
521 from among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall
522 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
523 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

524 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
525 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
526 technology shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

527 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report
528 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees
529 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
530 energy and technology and general law, in accordance with the
531 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall
532 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2025,
533 whichever is later.

534 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Notwithstanding the provisions
535 of titles 16 and 16a of the general statutes, the Public Utilities Regulatory
536 Authority may select the Connecticut Green Bank, the Department of

537 Energy and Environmental Protection, the electric distribution
 538 companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, a third
 539 party that the authority deems appropriate or any combination thereof
 540 to implement any ratepayer-funded clean energy, renewable energy or
 541 electric grid modernization program established by the authority in a
 542 proceeding."

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	16a-3m
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	16a-3n
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	16-243q(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section