General Assembly **Substitute Bill No. 7243**

January Session, 2025

* H B 0 7 2 4 3 G A E 0 3 2 8 2 5 *

AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENTS OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND SUBSTANTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OF SUCH UTILITY COMMISSIONERS.

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

Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(e) To **[**insure**]** ensure the highest standard of public utility regulation, on and after October 1, 2007, any newly appointed utility commissioner of the authority shall have education or training and three or more years of experience in one or more of the following fields: Economics, engineering, law, accounting, finance, utility regulation, public or government administration, consumer advocacy, business management, and environmental management. On and after July 1, 1997, at least three of these fields shall be represented on the authority by individual utility commissioners at all times. **[**Any time a utility commissioner is newly appointed, at least one of the utility commissioners shall have experience in utility customer advocacy.**]** On and after October 1, 2025, any appointments shall ensure that at least one member has expertise in economics, accounting, forensic auditing or financial regulation; at least one member has experience in utility

customer advocacy, with public service or administration experience; and at least one member has a law degree with experience in administrative or utility regulatory law, provided at least half of the appointed commissioners shall not have had prior employment with an entity regulated by the authority. No person who is an executive of a company or other entity that has received a notice of violation from the authority or an equivalent agency, or who has been an executive or principal of a company or other entity that has engaged in litigation with the authority or an equivalent agency, shall be eligible to serve as utility commissioner.

Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(g) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection assigned to work with the authority shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business, employment, transaction or professional activity, or incur any obligation of any nature, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties or employment in the public interest and of his or her responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, as defined in section 1-85, concerning any matter within the jurisdiction of the authority; provided, no such substantial conflict shall be deemed to exist solely by virtue of the fact that a utility commissioner of the authority or employee of the department assigned to work with the authority, or any business in which such a person has an interest, receives utility service from one or more Connecticut utilities under the normal rates and conditions of service. For purposes of this subsection, a utility commissioner who has been employed in a profession regulated by the authority for one year or more shall be deemed to have such a substantial conflict in matters concerning the former employer of such commissioner or an entity affiliated with such employer for a period of not less than five years after the termination of such employment, and such commissioner shall recuse himself or herself from participating in any matter concerning such employer or affiliated entity during such

five-year period.

Sec. 3. Subsection (k) of section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(k) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, for a period of **[**one year**]** five years following the termination of his or her service as a utility commissioner, accept employment: (1) By a public service company or by any person, firm or corporation engaged in lobbying activities with regard to governmental regulation of public service companies; (2) by a certified telecommunications provider or by any person, firm or corporation engaged in lobbying activities with regard to governmental regulation of persons, firms or corporations so certified; or (3) by an electric supplier or by any person, firm or corporation engaged in lobbying activities with regard to governmental regulation of electric suppliers. No such utility commissioner who is also an attorney shall in any capacity, appear or participate in any matter, or accept any compensation regarding a matter, before the authority, for a period of one year following the termination of his or her service as a utility commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	16-2(e)
Sec. 2	*October 1, 2025*	16-2(g)
Sec. 3	*October 1, 2025*	16-2(k)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
Sections 2 and 3 were reordered for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*