

# Public Safety and Security Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5457 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS THAT OCCUR AT SOLAR  
**Title:** PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITIES.

**Vote Date:** 3/17/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/12/2026

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill aims to improve safety at solar photovoltaic (solar power) facilities. Following previous fires at solar power facilities, the bill proposes new standards to prevent fires. These standards include: requiring safer design, requiring reporting of fires to the Connecticut Sitting Council, mandating investigations into solar equipment and whether or not it contributed to incidents, and requiring facilities affected by fires to adopt fire mitigation plans when risks are identified. This bill aims to improve the prevention efforts of fires on the grounds of solar photovoltaic facilities by adopting plans to address issues prior to an incident occurring and collecting better data regarding the fire risks associated with these facilities.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Stephanie Phillips](#) testified that she and her husband support the bill. She shared her story of a fire and explosion that occurred at a facility near her residence.

[Nicole Paradise, East Windsor resident](#) testified that she supports efforts to improve safety coordination between energy facilities and local emergency responders. However, as Connecticut continues expanding large-scale energy infrastructure, she states it is important to consider how the location of these facilities can affect emergency response planning, firefighter safety, and community preparedness.

[Julie Traczyk](#) submitted testimony in support of Bill H.B. 5457 because it enhances safety measures ensuring an official record of incidents which allows for a review of potential risks associated with solar installation. She states the bill provides proactive risk assessment, mandated fire mitigation plans, provides support for renewable energy and contributes to a safer energy future.

[Walter Summers, Co-Legislative Rep-CT Fire Marshals Assoc](#) submitted written testimony supporting the bill intended on finding the causes of fires or explosions at solar photovoltaic facilities. CFMA suggested additional language be added which is listed in their testimony.

[Jason Bowsza, First Selectman, Town of East Windsor](#) submitted testimony in support because the bill requires local fire marshals to submit reports to the Council describing fires that occur at grid-scale solar facilities, which is a reasonable step toward improving oversight. He states it allows the Council to reopen a project approval through an amendment proceeding to require the project owner to adopt a solar photovoltaic facility fire mitigation plan.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[Francis Pullaro, President-RENEW Northeast](#) submitted written testimony in opposition to this bill because they claim this bill is counterproductive and unnecessary. They also submitted a list of reasons to support their claim, listed in the testimony.

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

[Melanie Bachman, Executive Director-CT Siting Council](#) submitted a copy of Bill H.B. 5457 as testimony.

[Mike Trahan, Executive Director-CT Solar & Storage Association](#) submitted a request to clarify language in Bill H.B. 5447. He states the language in the proposed bill refers to the "owner" of the solar facility and states it is common for both solar developers and electric distribution companies to own and operate equipment at solar facilities. CONSSA requests that any fire reports or mitigation planning ordered be the responsibility of those deemed responsible for incidents covered by the bill.

**Reported by:** Emma Rybacki, Clerk  
Jacqueline Olsen, Assist. Clerk

**Date:** 3/27/26