



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Substitute Bill No. 5457**



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

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-303 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) The fire chief or local fire marshal with jurisdiction over a town,  
4 city, borough or fire district where a fire, explosion or other fire  
5 emergency occurs shall furnish the State Fire Marshal a report that shall  
6 include (1) all the facts relating to its cause, its origin, the kind, the  
7 estimated value and ownership of the property damaged or destroyed,  
8 and (2) such other information as called for by the State Fire Marshal on  
9 forms furnished by the State Fire Marshal, or in an electronic format  
10 prescribed by the State Fire Marshal. The fire chief or fire marshal may  
11 also submit reports regarding other significant fire department response  
12 to such fire or explosion, and such reports may be filed monthly but  
13 commencing January 1, 2008, such reports shall be filed not less than  
14 quarterly.

15 (b) For any fire or explosion that occurs at a facility, as defined in  
16 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, that is a solar  
17 photovoltaic facility, the local fire marshal shall also furnish the report  
18 described in subsection (a) of this section to the Connecticut Siting  
19 Council established under section 16-50j.

20       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than thirty days  
21 after the Connecticut Siting Council receives a report regarding a fire or  
22 explosion that occurred at a facility that is a solar photovoltaic facility,  
23 furnished pursuant to subsection (b) of section 29-303 of the general  
24 statutes, as amended by this act, the council shall, in conjunction with  
25 the local fire marshal who furnished the report, determine whether any  
26 solar photovoltaic facility equipment at the facility was a contributing  
27 factor to the fire or explosion. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter  
28 277a of the general statutes, if the council determines, in conjunction  
29 with the local fire marshal, that such equipment was such a factor, the  
30 council shall initiate an amendment proceeding to amend the certificate  
31 issued to the owner of the facility pursuant to said chapter. The purpose  
32 of such amendment proceeding shall be to require the owner to adopt a  
33 solar photovoltaic facility fire mitigation plan. Any such mitigation plan  
34 adopted in accordance with this section shall include, but not be limited  
35 to, an explicit description of the best management practices the owner  
36 will employ, informed by the latest science at the time the plan is  
37 formed, that will avoid, minimize and mitigate any fire or explosion  
38 risks relating to solar photovoltaic facilities. For purposes of this section,  
39 "facility" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (3) of  
40 subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes.

41       (b) Not later than one hundred eighty days after the conclusion of an  
42 amendment proceeding that was initiated under subsection (a) of this  
43 section and that resulted in the adoption of a solar photovoltaic facility  
44 fire mitigation plan, the council shall determine if there are any facilities  
45 in the state that are similarly situated to the facility that was the subject  
46 of such order. If the council determines that there are any such similarly  
47 situated facilities, the council may, notwithstanding any provision of  
48 chapter 277a of the general statutes, initiate an amendment proceeding  
49 to amend the certificate issued to any owner of a similarly situated  
50 facility pursuant to said chapter. The purpose of such amendment  
51 proceeding shall be to require such owner to adopt the same solar  
52 photovoltaic facility fire mitigation plan as the mitigation plan adopted  
53 in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	29-303
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 2(a), "the owner will employ, that are informed by the latest science" was changed to "the owner will employ, informed by the latest science" for clarity.

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*