

House of Representatives, March 19, 1998. The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. EBERLE, 15th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY GAS COMPANIES.

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

- 1 (a) There is established a task force to
- 2 study issues relating to the introduction of
- 3 competition in the retail natural gas marketplace.
- 4 The task force shall consider the manner in which
- 5 competition can best be accomplished. Such study
- 6 shall include, but not be limited to:
- 7 (1) Examining how unbundling can best be
- 8 accomplished in a manner that provides for a fair
- 9 allocation of responsibilities and costs;
- 10 (2) Identifying those costs associated with
- 11 the introduction of competition that should be
- 12 recovered, such as the incremental costs of
- 13 unbundling and examining how local distribution
- 14 companies should recover such costs;
- 15 (3) Determining how gas marketers should be
- 16 licensed by the Department of Public Utility
- 17 Control and analyzing financial, managerial and
- 18 technical criteria that a gas marketer should meet
- 19 in order to be licensed;
- 20 (4) Identifying consumer protection measures
- 21 which should be instituted or maintained,
- 22 including a prohibition against slamming; and

23 (5) Determining how best to prohibit local
24 distribution companies from discriminating against
25 marketers and discriminating between marketers and
26 any affiliate.

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

29 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House
30 of Representatives, who shall represent consumer
31 interests;

32 (2) One appointed by the president pro
33 tempore of the Senate, who shall represent a
34 marketer of natural gas;

35 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of
36 the House of Representatives, who shall represent
37 a gas company serving the Hartford area;

38 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of
39 the Senate, who shall represent a gas company
40 serving the New Haven area;

41 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of
42 the House of Representatives, who shall represent
43 a gas company serving the Meriden area;

44 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of
45 the Senate, who shall represent low-income
46 consumer interests;

47 (7) One appointed by the Governor, who shall
48 represent an industrial customer of a gas company;

49 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of
50 the joint standing committee of the General
51 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
52 public utilities;

53 (9) The chairperson of the Public Utilities
54 Control Authority, or his designee; and

55 (10) The Consumer Counsel, or his designee.

56 (c) All appointments to the task force shall
57 be made no later than thirty days after the
58 effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
59 be filled by the appointing authority.

60 (d) The chairpersons of the joint standing
61 committee of the General Assembly having
62 cognizance of matters relating to public utilities
63 shall serve as chairpersons of the task force.
64 Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting
65 of the task force, which shall be held no later
66 than sixty days after the effective date of this
67 section.

68 (e) The administrative staff of the joint
69 standing committee of the General Assembly having
70 cognizance of matters relating to public utilities

71 shall serve as administrative staff of the task
72 force.

73 (f) Not later than January 1, 1999, the task
74 force shall submit a report on its findings and
75 recommendations to the joint standing committee of
76 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
77 relating to public utilities, in accordance with
78 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
79 statutes. The task force shall terminate on the
80 date that it submits such report or January 1,
81 1999, whichever is earlier.

82 ET COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 16 NAY 0 JFS

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5606

STATE IMPACT	Workload Increase, Potential Minimal Costs, Can Be Absorbed Within Budgetary Resources, see below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Department of Public Utility Control, Office of Consumer Counsel, Legislative Management

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

Passage of this bill will result in a minimal workload increase to the Department of Utility Control and the Office of Consumer Counsel as representatives of each agency are appointed to serve on the task force to study gas companies as established by this bill. Additionally, there will be an increased workload to the General Assembly's Joint standing committee on Energy and Technology to provide administrative staff support for the task force. It is assumed that these increased workloads can be absorbed within the anticipated budgetary resources of each respective agency.

Finally, Legislative Management may incur additional costs related to mileage reimbursements for legislators participating in the task force. Actual costs are dependent on the number of legislators and miles driven, yet it is assumed that any increased costs can be absorbed within the anticipated budgetary resources of the agency.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze special acts.