

Energy and Technology Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1194

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/4/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Energy and Technology Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Rep. Geraldo Reyes, 75th Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill revises a statute concerning the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). This is important because it will protect consumers from becoming victims to monopolies, it will ensure fair pricing for ratepayers in Connecticut, it will continue the promotion of reliable service, protect the rights of consumers, and encourage energy efficiency and innovation. It is important to protect consumers from falling victim to monopolies in agencies that seeks to take advantage of them, this will help support consumers and stand up for them as well. This will set rates so costs can come down and customers can have reliable and affordable energy.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

No response from an agency or administration.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Richard Blumenthal, United States Senator](#): Senator Richard Blumenthal supports **SB-00194** because the bill will help support families around Connecticut from impact of increasing electricity costs. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has been standing up for consumers while also balancing the needs of Wall Street investors, balancing both responsibilities. PURA's recent decisions balance both duties, addressing concerns

while also standing up for consumers. Connecticut needs to investigate if utilities are meeting their obligations or are if franchise revocation and or other remedies are needed. The potential benefits of replacing these utilities with a public owned model need to be explored.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Marcello Assis, President of USW Local 12000 & 12000-1: USW Local 12000 & 12000-1 opposes **SB-01194** because of concerns that it places too much power and influence over energy regulation for only one person. Worry for detrimental impacts on union members. Worried that union members must go out and work on equipment that has been continually neglected because of PURA's decisions in a rate case. PURA should be required to consider experiences and the effects these decisions will have on workers. Safety must be considered when decisions are being made by PURA. The safety of the public, the unions, and energy sector must be considered.

Frank Reynolds and Kim Harriman, the United Illuminating Company: The United Illuminating Company opposes **SB-001194** because it would change the statute to one commissioner of the authority, where an individual would have the ability to delegate powers to a hearing officer, issue interrogatories and provide the ability to undertake other powers. Allows the improper and unlawful usurpation of PURA's authority by one person, which led to a lawsuit filed in state court with Eversource. This will elevate on persons interests over the publics.

Vincent P. Pace and Douglas P. Horton, Eversource Energy: Eversource opposes **SB-001194** because it would reinforce the ability for a singular Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) chairperson to designate one presiding officer or a hearing office to oversee a matter. It would make unlawful actions lawful and centralize power to one individual. It would take away some transparency.

Bryson Hull, Deputy Executive Director – Northeast Consumer Energy Alliance: Northeast Consumer Energy Alliance opposes **SB-001194** because the bill will allow for a singular chairman to designate a singular commissioner or hearing officer to preside over a rate case, which was in a recent lawsuit against the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). This would centralize power and take away transparency. More commissioners will better serve the state and the consumers, not serving ideological or political goals, but the needs of the consumers. This would not serve a political or personal agenda, but the needs of consumers.

Moses Rams, President, UWUA 470-1: UWUA 470-1 opposes **SB-001194** because the bill would centralize power to a singular person in the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), it would give them the power to appoint a presiding officer to handle every part of decision-making processes. This would allow an individual to pursue political and personal agendas. Rather than offering a commission with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, it will give a single person all the power. It will only worsen problems in Connecticut and reduce transparency.

Sara Young: Ms. Young opposes **SB-001194** because it isn't strong enough, and companies need to be held accountable. The government needs to take them to court for hiking energy rates and harming the taxpayers, accountability and transparency need to be reinforced.

Reported by: Ciara Smith

Date: 03/28/2025