



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Committee Bill No. 4**

LCO No. 5539



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:  
(ET)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-136 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Advanced nuclear reactor" has the  
4 same meaning as provided in 42 USC 16271, as amended from time to  
5 time, and (2) "high level nuclear waste" means those aqueous wastes  
6 resulting from the operation of the first cycle of the solvent extraction  
7 system or equivalent and the concentrated wastes of the subsequent  
8 extraction cycles or equivalent in a facility for reprocessing irradiated  
9 reactor fuel and includes spent fuel assemblies prior to fuel  
10 reprocessing.

11 (b) No construction shall commence on a [fifth] new nuclear power  
12 facility in the state unless:

13 (1) [until the] The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
14 Protection finds that the United States Government, through its  
15 authorized agency, has identified and approved a demonstrable

16 technology or means for the disposal of high level nuclear waste; [ The  
17 provisions of this section shall not apply to construction at any nuclear  
18 power generating facility operating in the state as of October 1, 2022. As  
19 used in this section, "high level nuclear waste" means those aqueous  
20 wastes resulting from the operation of the first cycle of the solvent  
21 extraction system or equivalent and the concentrated wastes of the  
22 subsequent extraction cycles or equivalent in a facility for reprocessing  
23 irradiated reactor fuel and shall include spent fuel assemblies prior to  
24 fuel reprocessing.]

25 (2) The nuclear power facility is proposed to be sited at a nuclear  
26 power generating facility operating in the state as of October 1, 2022; or

27 (3) The construction is for an advanced nuclear reactor facility and  
28 (A) such facility is sited in a municipality that has consented to such  
29 facility's development through the affirmative vote of such  
30 municipality's legislative body or a referendum held in such  
31 municipality, and (B) any additional municipality within the emergency  
32 planning zone, as determined by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
33 of the proposed facility consents to such facility's development through  
34 the affirmative vote of such municipality's legislative body or a  
35 referendum held in such municipality.

36 (c) The entity proposing such new nuclear power facility, including  
37 advanced nuclear reactors, shall obtain all permits, licenses, permissions  
38 or approvals governing the construction, operation and funding of  
39 decommissioning of such nuclear power facility as required by: (1) Any  
40 applicable federal statutes, including, but not limited to, the Atomic  
41 Energy Act of 1954, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, the Low-  
42 Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 and the  
43 Energy Policy Act of 1992, as amended from time to time; (2) any  
44 regulations promulgated or enforced by the United States Nuclear  
45 Regulatory Commission, including, but not limited to, those codified at  
46 Title X, Parts 20, 30, 40, 50, 52, 53, 70 and 72 of the Code of Federal  
47 Regulations, as amended from time to time; and (3) any other federal or

48 state statute, rule or regulation governing the permitting, licensing,  
49 construction, operation or decommissioning of such facility.

50       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, (1)  
51 "eligible recipient" means (A) a regional governmental entity,  
52 municipality, regional council of governments, public authority, state or  
53 federally recognized tribe or municipal electric utility or cooperative  
54 with a demonstrated interest in hosting advanced nuclear reactors or  
55 offshore wind energy facilities, as determined by the Commissioner of  
56 Energy and Environmental Protection, (B) a private entity partnering or  
57 interested in partnering with said entities for the development of  
58 advanced nuclear reactors or offshore wind energy facilities, or (C) an  
59 institution of higher education in the state; and (2) "advanced nuclear  
60 reactor" has the same meaning as provided in 42 USC 16271, as amended  
61 from time to time.

62       (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
63 establish a competitive advanced nuclear reactor and offshore wind  
64 energy site readiness funding program. The commissioner may provide  
65 funding through the program in the form of grants or loans to eligible  
66 recipients in support of:

67       (1) Environmental and technical studies required for early site  
68 permitting for advanced nuclear reactors or offshore wind energy  
69 facilities;

70       (2) Local and regional infrastructure assessments to support the  
71 development of advanced nuclear reactors or offshore wind energy  
72 facilities;

73       (3) Community engagement and planning initiatives related to  
74 hosting advanced nuclear reactors or offshore wind energy facilities;  
75 and

76       (4) Other necessary expenses identified by the commissioner to  
77 advance site readiness for advanced nuclear reactors or offshore wind

78 energy facilities.

79 (c) The commissioner may use bond funds authorized in support of  
80 the program or federal funds allocated to the state in support of the  
81 program established under this section. In the case of federal funds  
82 allocated for such purposes, the commissioner may revise its advanced  
83 nuclear reactor and offshore wind and energy site readiness grant  
84 program criteria to be consistent with the requirements of the federal  
85 funding program criteria. The commissioner may use said funds to hire  
86 a technical consultant to support the implementation of this section.

87 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in  
88 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the  
89 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state  
90 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the  
91 aggregate \_\_\_\_ million dollars.

92 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be used by the  
93 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the purpose of  
94 funding grants or loans through the advanced nuclear reactor and  
95 offshore wind energy facility site readiness funding program  
96 established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

97 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 16a-102 of the general statutes is  
98 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
99 *1, 2025*):

100 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
101 coordinate all atomic development activities in the state. Said  
102 commissioner or his designee shall (1) advise the Governor with respect  
103 to atomic industrial development within the state; (2) act as coordinator  
104 of the development and regulatory activities of the state relating to the  
105 industrial and commercial uses of atomic energy; (3) act as the  
106 Governor's designee in matters relating to atomic energy, including  
107 participation in the activities of any committee formed by the New  
108 England states to represent their interests in such matters and also

109 cooperation with other states and with the government of the United  
110 States; (4) coordinate the studies, recommendations and proposals of the  
111 several departments and agencies of the state required by section 16a-  
112 103 with each other and also with the programs and activities of the  
113 development commission; and (5) act as a point of contact for public and  
114 private stakeholders to assist in compliance with federal, state and local  
115 requirements relevant to atomic development, including, but not  
116 limited to, siting considerations and permitting requirements. The  
117 commissioner shall consult with and review regulations and procedures  
118 of the agencies of the state with respect to the regulation of sources of  
119 radiation to assure consistency and to prevent unnecessary duplication,  
120 inconsistencies or gaps in regulatory requirements.

121 Sec. 5. Section 16a-3j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
122 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

123 (a) In order to secure cost-effective resources to provide more reliable  
124 electric or gas service for the benefit of the state's electric ratepayers and  
125 to meet the state's energy and environmental goals and policies  
126 established in the Integrated Resources Plan, pursuant to section 16a-3a,  
127 and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, pursuant to section 16a-3d, the  
128 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation  
129 with the procurement manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-  
130 2, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Attorney General, may, in  
131 coordination with other states in the control area of the regional  
132 independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, or on behalf of  
133 [Connecticut] the state alone, issue multiple solicitations for long-term  
134 contracts from providers of resources described in subsections (b), (c)  
135 and (d) of this section.

136 (b) In any solicitation for resources to reduce electric or gas demand  
137 and improve resiliency and electric or gas grid reliability in the state,  
138 issued pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall seek  
139 proposals for (1) passive demand response measures, including, but not  
140 limited to, energy efficiency, load management, and the state's

141 conservation and load management programs, pursuant to section 16-  
142 245m; [, that are capable, either singly or through aggregation, of  
143 reducing electric demand by one megawatt or more;] and (2) Class I  
144 renewable energy sources and Class III sources, as defined in section 16-  
145 1, provided any such project proposal is for a facility that has a  
146 nameplate capacity rating of more than two megawatts and less than  
147 twenty megawatts. The commissioner may also seek proposals for  
148 energy storage systems, as defined in section 16-1, that are capable of  
149 storing up to twenty megawatts of energy. Proposals pursuant to this  
150 subsection shall not have a contract term exceeding twenty years. Each  
151 electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1, and gas  
152 company, as defined in section 16-1, shall, in consultation with the  
153 Energy Conservation Management Board established pursuant to  
154 section 16-245m, assess whether the submission of a proposal for  
155 passive and active demand response measures is feasible pursuant to  
156 any solicitation issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
157 provided such proposal only includes electric or gas demand reductions  
158 that are in addition to existing and projected demand reductions  
159 obtained through the conservation and load management programs.

160 (c) In any solicitation issued pursuant to this subsection, the  
161 commissioner shall seek proposals from (1) Class I renewable energy  
162 sources, as defined in section 16-1, having a nameplate capacity rating  
163 of twenty megawatts or more, and any associated transmission; and (2)  
164 verifiable large-scale hydropower, as defined in section 16-1, and any  
165 associated transmission. The commissioner may also seek proposals for  
166 energy storage systems, as defined in section 16-1, having a nameplate  
167 capacity rating of twenty megawatts or more. Proposals under this  
168 subsection shall not have a contract term exceeding twenty years. In  
169 soliciting Class I renewable energy sources, and any associated  
170 transmission, pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner may, for the  
171 purpose of balancing such Class I energy deliveries and improving the  
172 economic viability of such proposals, also seek proposals for electricity  
173 and capacity from Class II renewable energy sources, as defined in  
174 section 16-1, and existing hydropower resources other than those

175 described under section 16-1, provided such resources are  
176 interconnected to such associated transmission and are located in the  
177 control area of the regional independent system operator or imported  
178 into the control area of the regional independent system operator from  
179 resources located in an adjacent regional independent system operator's  
180 control area.

181 (d) In any solicitation for natural gas resources issued pursuant to this  
182 subsection, the commissioner shall seek proposals for (1) interstate  
183 natural gas transportation capacity, (2) liquefied natural gas, (3)  
184 liquefied natural gas storage, and (4) natural gas storage, or a  
185 combination of any such resources, provided such proposals provide  
186 incremental capacity, gas, or storage that has a firm delivery capability  
187 to transport natural gas to natural gas-fired generating facilities located  
188 in the control area of the regional independent system operator.  
189 Proposals under this subsection shall not have a contract term exceeding  
190 a period of twenty years.

191 (e) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in  
192 consultation with the procurement manager identified in subsection (l)  
193 of section 16-2, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Attorney  
194 General, shall evaluate project proposals received under any solicitation  
195 issued pursuant to subsection (b), (c) or (d) of this section, based on  
196 factors including, but not limited to, (1) improvements to the reliability  
197 of the electric system, including during winter peak demand; (2)  
198 whether the benefits of the proposal outweigh the costs to ratepayers;  
199 (3) fuel diversity; (4) the extent to which the proposal contributes to  
200 meeting the requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and  
201 improve air quality in accordance with sections 16-245a, 22a-174 [.] and  
202 22a-200a; (5) whether the proposal is in the best interest of ratepayers;  
203 and (6) whether the proposal is aligned with the policy goals outlined  
204 in the Integrated Resources Plan, pursuant to section 16a-3a, and the  
205 Comprehensive Energy Strategy, pursuant to section 16a-3d, including,  
206 but not limited to, environmental impacts. In conducting such  
207 evaluation, the commissioner may also consider the extent to which

208 project proposals provide economic benefits for the state. In evaluating  
209 project proposals received under any solicitation issued pursuant to  
210 subsection (b), (c) or (d) of this section, the commissioner shall compare  
211 the costs and benefits of such proposals relative to the expected or actual  
212 costs and benefits of other resources eligible to respond to the other  
213 procurements authorized pursuant to this section.

214 (f) The commissioner may hire consultants with expertise in  
215 quantitative modeling of electric and gas markets, and physical gas and  
216 electric system modeling, as applicable, to assist in implementing this  
217 section, including, but not limited to, the evaluation of proposals  
218 submitted pursuant to this section. All reasonable costs, not exceeding  
219 one million five hundred thousand dollars, associated with the  
220 commissioner's solicitation and review of proposals pursuant to this  
221 section shall be recoverable through the nonbypassable federally  
222 mandated congestion charge, as defined in subsection (a) of section 16-  
223 1. Such costs shall be recoverable even if the commissioner does not  
224 select any proposals pursuant to solicitations issued pursuant to this  
225 section.

226 (g) If the commissioner finds proposals received pursuant to this  
227 section to be in the best interest of [electric] ratepayers, in accordance  
228 with the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the commissioner  
229 may select any such proposal or proposals, provided the total capacity  
230 of the resources selected under all solicitations issued pursuant to this  
231 section in the aggregate do not exceed three hundred seventy-five  
232 million cubic feet per day of natural gas capacity, or the equivalent  
233 megawatts of electricity, electric demand reduction or combination  
234 thereof. Any proposals selected pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of  
235 this section shall not, in the aggregate, exceed ten per cent of the load  
236 distributed by the state's electric distribution companies or ten per cent  
237 of the load distributed by the state's gas companies. The commissioner  
238 may, on behalf of all customers of electric distribution companies, direct  
239 the electric distribution companies to enter into long-term contracts for  
240 active or passive demand response measures that result in electric



241 savings, electricity time-of-use shifts, electricity, electric capacity,  
242 environmental attributes, energy storage, interstate natural gas  
243 transportation capacity, liquefied natural gas, liquefied natural gas  
244 storage [,] and natural gas storage, or any combination thereof, from  
245 proposals submitted pursuant to this section, provided the benefits of  
246 such contracts to customers of electric distribution companies outweigh  
247 the costs to such companies' customers. The commissioner may, on  
248 behalf of the customers of gas companies, direct the gas companies to  
249 enter into long-term contracts for active or passive demand response  
250 measures that result in gas savings or time-of-use shifts from proposals  
251 submitted pursuant to this section, provided the benefits of such  
252 contracts to customers of gas companies outweigh the costs to such  
253 companies' customers.

254 (h) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be  
255 subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory  
256 Authority. The electric distribution company or gas company shall file  
257 an application for the approval of any such agreement with the  
258 authority. The authority shall approve such agreement if it is cost  
259 effective and in the best interest of electric or gas ratepayers. The  
260 authority shall issue a decision not later than ninety days after such  
261 filing. If the authority does not issue a decision within ninety days after  
262 such filing, the agreement shall be deemed approved. When an electric  
263 distribution company or gas company both apply for recovery of net  
264 costs of the same such agreement, the authority shall determine which  
265 net costs are attributable to each company. The net costs of any such  
266 agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution  
267 company or gas company under the agreement and reasonable costs  
268 incurred by the electric distribution company in connection with the  
269 agreement, shall be recovered on a timely basis through a fully  
270 reconciling component of electric rates or gas rates for all customers of  
271 the electric distribution company or gas company. Any net revenues  
272 from the sale of products purchased in accordance with long-term  
273 contracts entered into pursuant to this section shall be credited to  
274 customers through the same fully reconciling rate component for all

275 customers of the contracting electric distribution company. For any  
276 contract for interstate natural gas transportation capacity, liquefied  
277 natural gas, liquefied natural gas storage or natural gas storage entered  
278 into pursuant to this section, the electric distribution company may  
279 contract with a gas supply manager to sell such interstate natural gas  
280 transportation capacity, liquefied natural gas, liquefied natural gas  
281 storage or natural gas storage, or a combination thereof, into the  
282 wholesale markets at the best available price in a manner that meets all  
283 applicable requirements pursuant to all applicable regulations of the  
284 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

285 (i) Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation  
286 Information System for any Class I renewable energy source or Class III  
287 source procured by an electric distribution company pursuant to this  
288 section may be: (1) Sold into the New England Power Pool Generation  
289 Information System renewable energy credit market to be used by any  
290 electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet the  
291 requirements of section 16-245a, so long as the revenues from such sale  
292 are credited to electric distribution company customers as described in  
293 this subsection; or (2) retained by the electric distribution company to  
294 meet the requirements of section 16-245a. In considering whether to sell  
295 or retain such certificates the company shall select the option that is in  
296 the best interest of such company's ratepayers.

297 Sec. 6. Section 16a-3m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
298 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

299 (a) For the purposes of this section:

300 (1) "Best interest of ratepayers" means the benefits of a contract or  
301 proposal outweigh the costs to electric ratepayers, based on whether the  
302 delivered prices of sources included in such contract or proposal are less  
303 than the forecasted price of energy and capacity, as determined by the  
304 commissioner or the commissioner's designee, and based on a  
305 consideration of the following factors, as determined by the  
306 commissioner or the commissioner's designee: (A) Impacts on electric

307 system operations and reliability; (B) the extent to which such contract  
308 or proposal will contribute to (i) the local sourcing requirement set by  
309 the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1,  
310 and (ii) meeting the requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
311 and improve air quality in accordance with sections 16-245a, 22a-174  
312 and 22a-200a; (C) fuel diversity; and (D) whether the proposal is aligned  
313 with the policy goals outlined in the Integrated Resources Plan  
314 developed pursuant to section 16a-3a and the Comprehensive Energy  
315 Strategy developed pursuant to section 16a-3d, including, but not  
316 limited to, environmental impacts; and

317 (2) "Eligible nuclear power generating facility" means a nuclear  
318 power generating facility that is located in the control area of the  
319 regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, and is  
320 licensed to operate through January 1, 2030, or later.

321 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and  
322 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall (1) conduct an appraisal  
323 regarding nuclear power generating facilities in accordance with  
324 subsection (c) of this section, and (2) determine whether a solicitation  
325 process for nuclear power generating facilities shall be conducted  
326 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. On or before February 1, 2018,  
327 the commissioner and the authority shall report, in accordance with  
328 section 11-4a, the results of the appraisal and the selection conducted  
329 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section to the General Assembly. If the  
330 General Assembly does not reject such results by a simple majority vote  
331 in each house on or before March 1, 2018, such results shall be deemed  
332 approved.

333 (c) The appraisal conducted pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection  
334 (b) of this section shall assess: (1) The current economic condition of  
335 nuclear generating facilities located in the control area of the regional  
336 independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1; (2) the  
337 projected economic condition of nuclear power generating facilities  
338 located in the control area of the regional independent system operator,

339 as defined in section 16-1; (3) the impact on the following considerations  
340 if such nuclear power generating facilities retire before July 1, 2027: (A)  
341 Electric markets, fuel diversity, energy security and grid reliability, (B)  
342 the state's greenhouse gas emissions mandated levels established  
343 pursuant to section 22a-200a, and (C) the state, regional and local  
344 economy.

345 (d) After completing the appraisal, if the results of such appraisal  
346 demonstrate that action is necessary, the commissioner shall act and  
347 may issue one or more solicitations, in consultation with the  
348 procurement manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-2 and the  
349 Office of Consumer Counsel established in section 16-2a, for zero-  
350 carbon electricity generating resources, including, but not limited to,  
351 eligible nuclear power generating facilities, hydropower, Class I  
352 renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and energy storage  
353 systems, provided (1) the total annual energy output of any proposals  
354 selected, in the aggregate, shall be not more than twelve million  
355 megawatt hours of electricity, (2) any agreement entered into pursuant  
356 to this subdivision with an eligible nuclear power generating facility or  
357 hydropower shall be for a period of not less than three years and not  
358 more than ten years, and (3) any agreement entered into pursuant to this  
359 subdivision with Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section  
360 16-1, and energy storage systems shall be for a period of not more than  
361 twenty years. On or before May 1, 2018, if the results of such appraisal  
362 demonstrate that one or more solicitations pursuant to this subsection  
363 are necessary, the commissioner shall initiate such solicitation process  
364 pursuant to this subsection, in accordance with subsection (e) of this  
365 section, provided any changes made, contracts entered into or  
366 agreements entered into are in the best interest of ratepayers.

367 (e) (1) Any solicitation issued pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
368 section for zero-carbon electricity generating resources, including, but  
369 not limited to, eligible nuclear power generating facilities, hydropower,  
370 Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and energy  
371 storage systems, shall be for resources delivered into the control area of

372 the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1,  
373 and any agreement entered into pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
374 subsection shall be in the best interest of ratepayers. If the commissioner  
375 finds proposals received pursuant to such solicitations to be in the best  
376 interest of ratepayers, the commissioner may select any such proposal  
377 or proposals, provided (A) the total annual energy output of any  
378 proposals selected, in the aggregate, shall be not more than twelve  
379 million megawatt hours of electricity, (B) any agreement entered into  
380 pursuant to this subdivision with an eligible nuclear power generating  
381 facility or hydropower shall be for a period of not less than three years  
382 and not more than ten years, and (C) any agreement entered into  
383 pursuant to this subdivision with Class I renewable energy sources, as  
384 defined in section 16-1, and energy storage systems shall be for a period  
385 of not more than twenty years.

386 (2) If the commissioner has made the determination and finding  
387 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall,  
388 on behalf of all customers of electric distribution companies, direct the  
389 electric distribution companies to enter into agreements for energy,  
390 capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof,  
391 from proposals submitted pursuant to this subdivision.

392 (3) Any agreement entered into pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
393 subsection shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities  
394 Regulatory Authority. The electric distribution company shall file an  
395 application for the approval of any such agreement with the authority.  
396 The authority's review shall commence upon the filing of the signed  
397 power purchase agreement with the authority. The authority shall  
398 approve agreements that it determines (A) provide for the delivery of  
399 adequate and reliable products and services, for which there is a clear  
400 public need, at a just and reasonable price, (B) are prudent and cost  
401 effective, and (C) that the respondent to the solicitation has the technical,  
402 financial and managerial capabilities to perform pursuant to such  
403 agreement. For any eligible nuclear power generating facility selected in  
404 any solicitation described in subsection (g) of this section, the authority

405 shall require any such agreement to be conditioned upon the approval  
406 of such a power purchase agreement or other agreement for energy,  
407 capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof,  
408 with such eligible nuclear power generating facility, in at least two other  
409 states, by the applicable officials of such states or by electric utilities or  
410 other entities designated by the applicable officials of such states. The  
411 authority shall issue a decision not later than one hundred eighty days  
412 after such filing. If the authority does not issue a decision within one  
413 hundred eighty days after such filing, the agreement shall be deemed  
414 approved. The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred  
415 by the electric distribution company under the agreement and  
416 reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution company in  
417 connection with the agreement, but excluding costs associated with the  
418 provision of standard service pursuant to subsection (h) of this section,  
419 shall be recovered on a timely basis through a nonbypassable fully  
420 reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of the electric  
421 distribution company. Any net revenues from the sale of products  
422 purchased in accordance with long-term contracts entered into pursuant  
423 to this subsection, except any such net revenues associated with the  
424 provision of standard service pursuant to subsection (h) of this section,  
425 shall be credited to customers through the same nonbypassable fully  
426 reconciling rate component for all customers of the contracting electric  
427 distribution company.

428 (f) Each person owning and operating a nuclear power generating  
429 facility in the state shall pay a pro rata share of all reasonable costs  
430 associated with the department's appraisal pursuant to subsection (c) of  
431 this section, determination pursuant to subsection (d) of this section,  
432 and actions taken pursuant to subsection (e) of this section in an amount  
433 not to exceed one million dollars.

434 (g) Any solicitation issued pursuant to this section on or after July 1,  
435 2024, for eligible nuclear power generating facilities shall be conducted  
436 in coordination with two or more other states in the control area of the  
437 regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1. The

438 commissioner may not direct any electric distribution company to enter  
439 into an agreement with an eligible nuclear power generating facility  
440 pursuant to this section unless the applicable officials of at least two  
441 such states select a proposal for energy, capacity and any environmental  
442 attributes, or any combination thereof, from an eligible nuclear power  
443 generating facility in response to such coordinated solicitation. The  
444 commissioner may revise the appraisal conducted pursuant to  
445 subsections (b) and (c) of this section in a manner determined by the  
446 commissioner and in furtherance of any such solicitation, at the  
447 commissioner's discretion.

448 (h) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (g),  
449 inclusive, of this section, subsection (a) of section 16-244c and section 16-  
450 244m, an electric distribution company may request the procurement  
451 manager of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to authorize such  
452 company to use any portion of the energy, capacity or other energy  
453 products, or any combination thereof, that such company purchases  
454 from an eligible nuclear power generating facility pursuant to an  
455 agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (e) of this section for the  
456 purpose of providing electric generation services for standard service.  
457 Not later than fifteen days after receiving such request, the procurement  
458 manager shall, in consultation with the Office of Consumer Counsel,  
459 approve or deny such request. The procurement manager may approve  
460 such a request only if the procurement manager concludes that such  
461 request is in the best interest of standard service customers.

462 (2) For any request that the procurement manager approves pursuant  
463 to this subsection, the procurement manager shall establish: (A) The  
464 time period during which such company shall use such energy, capacity  
465 or other energy products to provide electric generation services for  
466 standard service; (B) the quantity of energy, capacity or other energy  
467 products that such company shall use to provide electric generation  
468 services for standard service; and (C) the price that standard service  
469 customers shall pay for such energy, capacity and other energy  
470 products, provided the procurement manager may not establish a price

471 that is higher than the applicable price specified in the agreement that  
472 such company entered into pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

473 (3) If the procurement manager approves such request and  
474 authorizes such company to use such portion of the energy, capacity or  
475 other energy products to provide electric generation services for  
476 standard service, the cost of such portion of energy, capacity or other  
477 energy products shall be paid solely by standard service customers, in  
478 accordance with the quantity and price established by the procurement  
479 manager pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

480 (4) No person owning and operating a nuclear power generating  
481 facility in the state shall pay any administrative costs associated with the  
482 procurement manager's actions pursuant to this subsection.

483 (5) Nothing in this subsection or subsection (g) of this section shall be  
484 construed to amend or alter the terms or conditions of any agreement  
485 that an electric distribution company entered into pursuant to  
486 subsection (e) of this section.

487 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this  
488 section:

489 (1) "Utility-scale renewable thermal energy network" means  
490 distribution infrastructure (A) established for the purpose of providing  
491 thermal energy for space heating and cooling, domestic hot water  
492 production, refrigeration, thermal energy storage or commercial and  
493 industrial processes requiring heating or cooling, and (B) implemented  
494 through interconnections between one or more renewable thermal  
495 energy resources, which may be owned by multiple parties, and  
496 between these resources and heat pumps in multiple buildings owned  
497 by multiple parties; and

498 (2) "Renewable thermal energy" means (A) ambient heating or  
499 cooling provided, absorbed or stored by geothermal well boreholes or  
500 other noncombusting, non-fossil-fuel-consuming, nonnuclear thermal



501 resources, or (B) thermal energy otherwise lost to the atmosphere or  
502 other environmental compartment as waste heat.

503 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of title 16 of the general statutes,  
504 not later than twelve months after the effective date of this section, the  
505 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a proceeding to  
506 establish a program for development of utility-scale renewable thermal  
507 energy networks by gas companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the  
508 general statutes. In establishing said program, the authority shall  
509 develop parameters for such networks, procedures or filing proposals  
510 for such networks and a standardized data collection system enabling  
511 the authority and the public to track the status and performance of  
512 utility-scale renewable thermal energy networks developed pursuant to  
513 this section.

514 (c) The authority shall structure the utility-scale renewable thermal  
515 energy network program in the best interest of ratepayers of public  
516 service companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes. For  
517 purposes of this section, a determination of the best interest of  
518 ratepayers shall be based on an analysis of the reasonableness of the  
519 size, scope, scale and character of the project and related budget and the  
520 costs and benefits of the project, including, but not limited to: (1)  
521 Avoided long-term energy and infrastructure investments in extending  
522 or maintaining gas infrastructure; (2) the anticipated contribution of  
523 such projects to alleviation of seasonal strains on the state's natural gas  
524 supply and electric distribution system; (3) consumer protections and  
525 benefits for end users of the project; (4) adherence to best practices  
526 emerging from thermal energy network programs and project designs  
527 developed in other states or elsewhere in the state; (5) potential for  
528 accrual of capital and operational cost savings via interconnection with  
529 other existing or future thermal energy networks; (6) improvements in  
530 air quality in the buildings and neighborhood served by the project; and  
531 (7) reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to achieving  
532 the emissions reductions set forth in section 22a-200a of the general  
533 statutes. The authority may approve a utility-scale renewable thermal

534 energy network proposal that meets the parameters established under  
535 the program.

536 (d) The authority shall create a pilot component of the utility-scale  
537 renewable thermal energy network program that requires each gas  
538 company to file with the authority, for the authority's review and  
539 approval, proposals for not less than one and not more than two pilot  
540 projects for the development of utility-scale renewable thermal energy  
541 networks that meet the program parameters established in subsection  
542 (c) of this section. The authority shall review a proposal for a pilot  
543 project based on the program parameters and on the basis of the  
544 project's ability to provide insights into the potential for scaling up  
545 future deployment of thermal energy networks in Connecticut, for  
546 improving the performance of these networks and for bringing down  
547 the cost of broader deployment of these networks.

548 (e) The authority shall require projects submitted to the utility-scale  
549 renewable thermal energy network program for approval to include a  
550 proposed rate structure for thermal energy services supplied to network  
551 end users and consumer-protection plans for end users. The authority  
552 may approve the proposed rate structure if the projected heating and  
553 cooling costs for end users is not greater than the heating and cooling  
554 costs the end users would be projected to incur if had they not  
555 participated.

556 (f) The authority shall approve the recovery of prudent costs incurred  
557 by a gas company for the development and construction of projects  
558 approved pursuant to the utility-scale renewable thermal energy  
559 program through a nonbypassable and fully reconciling component of  
560 gas rates for all customers of the gas company.

561 (g) A gas company may meet its obligation under subsection (b) of  
562 section 16-20 of the general statutes through a project approved by the  
563 authority pursuant to this section.

564 (h) The authority shall ensure the transparency and validity of the

565 outcomes of the projects developed pursuant to this section through  
566 third-party evaluation of the data the authority collects through its  
567 standardized data collection requirement.

568 (i) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a municipality from  
569 developing, owning or maintaining a utility-scale renewable thermal  
570 energy network.

571 (j) As part of the utility-scale renewable thermal energy network  
572 program, the authority shall establish a working group to study thermal  
573 energy networks comprising representatives of the staffs of the  
574 authority, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the  
575 Connecticut Green Bank, the gas and electric companies and  
576 nongovernmental environmental organizations.

577 (k) As part of the utility-scale renewable thermal energy network  
578 program, the authority shall, through the working group established  
579 under subsection (j) of this section, undertake a study or studies  
580 assessing the potential breadth of deployment of thermal energy  
581 networks in the state. Said study shall address factors including, but not  
582 limited to: (1) Technical feasibility; (2) economic feasibility, taking into  
583 account the potential for (A) reduction in energy costs of the customer  
584 that is the off-taker of the system; (B) reduction in network capital costs  
585 as the scale of deployments increases; (C) reduction in capital and  
586 operating costs as thermal energy networks are interconnected; (D)  
587 avoided cost of expanding and maintaining portions of the gas-  
588 distribution system; (E) minimization of the cost of expanding the  
589 electricity distribution system to facilitate increasing electrification of  
590 thermal loads; (F) reduction in per-kilowatt-hour cost of supplying  
591 electricity as more electricity is sold; (G) state and federal financial  
592 incentives available; (H) employing and advancing the skills of gas-  
593 utility workers; (I) providing the gas utility companies a business model  
594 not dependent on continued use of combustion of fossil fuels; and (J)  
595 improvement of air quality; (3) deployment strategies to maximize the  
596 scope, minimize the cost and equitably allocate the cost of thermal

597 energy networks, including systematic identification of significant  
598 sources of waste heat across the state; (4) considerations regarding  
599 deployment in (A) low and moderate income communities, (B)  
600 environmental justice communities, (C) new residential and commercial  
601 construction versus retrofitting existing residential and commercial  
602 buildings, (D) urban versus rural communities, (E) areas with existing  
603 gas service versus areas without, and (F) ownership and business  
604 models; and (5) appropriate parameters for broader deployment in the  
605 near and medium term, including site selection, network design,  
606 interactions with, and impacts on, the gas and electricity distribution  
607 systems, ratepayer protections, billing models, consumer protections,  
608 data collection, community engagement and deployment in low and  
609 moderate income communities and environmental justice communities.

610 Sec. 8. Section 16-32e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
611 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

612 (a) As used in this section, "emergency" means any (1) hurricane,  
613 tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave,  
614 tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide,  
615 snowstorm, drought or fire explosion, or (2) attack or series of attacks  
616 by an enemy of the United States causing, or which may cause,  
617 substantial damage or injury to civilian property or persons in the  
618 United States in any manner by sabotage or by the use of bombs,  
619 shellfire or atomic, radiological, chemical, bacteriological or biological  
620 means or other weapons or processes.

621 (b) Not later than July 1, 2012, and every two years thereafter, each  
622 public service company, as defined in section 16-1, each  
623 telecommunications company, as defined in section 16-1, that installs,  
624 maintains, operates or controls poles, wires, conduits or other fixtures  
625 under or over any public highway for the provision of  
626 telecommunications service authorized by section 16-247c, each voice  
627 over Internet protocol service provider, as defined in section 28-30b, and  
628 each municipal utility furnishing electric, gas or water service shall file

629 with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Department of  
630 Emergency Services and Public Protection and each municipality  
631 located within the service area of the public service company,  
632 telecommunications company, voice over Internet protocol service  
633 provider or municipal utility an updated plan for restoring service  
634 which is interrupted as a result of an emergency, except no such plan  
635 shall be required of a public service company or municipal utility that  
636 submits a water supply plan pursuant to section 25-32d. Plans filed by  
637 public service companies and municipal utilities furnishing water shall  
638 be prepared in accordance with the memorandum of understanding  
639 entered into pursuant to section 4-67e.

640 (c) (1) Each company, provider or utility required to file a plan for  
641 restoring service pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall establish  
642 an emergency service restoration planning committee to prepare such  
643 plan. Not less than fifty per cent of the members of such committee shall  
644 be line and restoration crew members employed by such company,  
645 provider or utility. The balance of the members appointed to such  
646 committee shall be appointed by such company, provider or utility.

647 (2) If line and restoration crew members employed by such company,  
648 provider or utility are members of a collective bargaining unit, the  
649 collective bargaining unit shall select the line and restoration crew  
650 members appointed to such committee. If such line and restoration crew  
651 members are not members of a collective bargaining unit, the line and  
652 crew members appointed to such committee shall be selected through a  
653 process determined by the line and crew members employed by such  
654 company, provider or utility.

655 (3) A committee established pursuant to this subsection shall have  
656 two cochairpersons, one of whom shall be a line and restoration crew  
657 member employed by such company, provider or utility elected by the  
658 members of the committee who are line and restoration crew members,  
659 and one of whom shall be elected by the members of the committee who  
660 are not line and restoration crew members.

661     (4) A committee established pursuant to this subsection shall take  
662     minutes of each meeting, make such minutes available to any employee  
663     of such company, provider or utility upon request and submit such  
664     minutes to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and the  
665     Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection upon request.  
666     A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum  
667     for the transaction of committee business. Decisions of the committee  
668     shall be made by majority vote of the members present at any meeting.

669     (d) Each such plan for restoring service which is interrupted as a  
670     result of an emergency shall include measures for (1) communication  
671     and coordination with state officials, municipalities and other public  
672     service companies and telecommunications companies during a major  
673     disaster, as defined in section 28-1, or an emergency; [and] (2)  
674     participation in training exercises as directed by the Commissioner of  
675     Emergency Services and Public Protection; (3) measures to protect the  
676     health and safety of line and restoration crews during an emergency and  
677     during the restoration of service, including the provision of appropriate  
678     personal protective equipment; (4) measures to protect the health and  
679     safety of household and community members during an emergency and  
680     during the restoration of service; and (5) a training and skills plan for  
681     line and restoration workers. If line and restoration crew members are  
682     members of a collective bargaining unit, such training and skills plan  
683     shall be jointly developed by the company, provider or utility and such  
684     collective bargaining unit. Each such plan shall include such company's,  
685     provider's or municipal utility's response for service outages affecting  
686     more than ten per cent, thirty per cent, fifty per cent and seventy per  
687     cent of such company's, provider's or municipal utility's customers. On  
688     or before September 1, 2012, and biannually thereafter, the authority  
689     shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint  
690     standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
691     matters relating to public utilities summarizing such plans. Not later  
692     than September 15, 2012, and every two years thereafter, the Public  
693     Utilities Regulatory Authority may conduct public hearings on such  
694     plans and, in consultation with the Department of Emergency Services

695 and Public Protection, the Department of Public Health and the joint  
696 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
697 matters relating to public utilities, revise such plans to the extent  
698 necessary to provide properly for the public convenience, necessity and  
699 welfare. If the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority revises the  
700 emergency plan of a public service company, telecommunications  
701 company, voice over Internet protocol service provider or municipal  
702 utility, such company, provider or municipal utility shall file a copy of  
703 the revised plan with each municipality located within the service area  
704 of the company, provider or municipal utility. Any information  
705 provided in any such plan shall be considered confidential, not subject  
706 to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in  
707 section 1-200, and any such information shall not be transmitted to any  
708 person except as needed to comply with this section.

709     ~~[(c)]~~ (e) At the discretion of the Commissioner of Emergency Services  
710 and Public Protection or after an emergency or major disaster is declared  
711 in the state by the Governor under the laws of this state or by the  
712 President of the United States under federal law, each telephone  
713 company, certified telecommunications provider, holder of a certificate  
714 of video franchise authority or holder of a certificate of cable franchise  
715 authority, as those terms are defined in section 16-1, with more than  
716 twenty-five thousand subscribers, shall provide a representative to staff  
717 the emergency operations center of an affected electric distribution  
718 company, as defined in section 16-1, as needed to ensure  
719 communication and coordination during emergency response and  
720 restoration efforts.

721     Sec. 9. Section 16-32~~l~~ of the general statutes is repealed and the  
722 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

723     (a) For the purposes of this section:

724     (1) "Emergency" means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high  
725 water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, landslide, mudslide,  
726 snowstorm, drought or fire explosion that results in sixty-nine per cent

727 or less of the electric distribution company's customers experiencing an  
728 outage at the period of peak electrical demand;

729 (2) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as  
730 provided in section 16-1; and

731 (3) "After the occurrence of an emergency" means the conclusion of  
732 the emergency, as determined by the authority in its discretion, through  
733 a review of the following: (A) The time when the electric distribution  
734 company could first deploy resources safely in its service territory; (B)  
735 the first of any official declarations concerning the end of the emergency;  
736 or (C) the expiration of the first of any National Weather Service  
737 warning applicable to the service territory.

738 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, on  
739 and after July 1, 2021, each electric distribution company shall provide  
740 to residential customers of such company a credit of twenty-five dollars,  
741 on the balance of such customer's account, for each day of distribution-  
742 system service outage that occurs for such customers for more than  
743 ninety-six consecutive hours after the occurrence of an emergency.

744 (c) Any costs incurred by an electric distribution company pursuant  
745 to this section shall not be recoverable.

746 (d) Not later than fourteen calendar days after the occurrence of an  
747 emergency, an electric distribution company may petition the authority  
748 for a waiver of the requirements of this section. Any petition for a waiver  
749 made under this subsection shall include the severity of the emergency,  
750 line and restoration crew safety issues and conditions on the ground,  
751 and shall be conducted as a contested case proceeding. The burden of  
752 proving that such waiver is reasonable and warranted shall be on the  
753 electric distribution company. In determining whether to grant such  
754 waiver, the authority shall consider whether the electric distribution  
755 company received approval and reasonable funding allowances, as  
756 determined by the authority, to meet infrastructure resiliency efforts to  
757 improve such company's performance.



758     (e) No electric distribution company shall require any line and  
759     restoration crew member to work in unsafe conditions to avoid  
760     providing credits to customer accounts pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
761     section or for any other reason.

762     (f) No electric distribution company shall discipline, terminate,  
763     withhold wages from or otherwise retaliate against any line and  
764     restoration crew member for failing to restore a distribution system  
765     outage within the ninety-six-hour period specified in subsection (b) of  
766     this section.

767     ~~[(e)]~~ (g) On or before January 1, 2021, the Public Utilities Regulatory  
768     Authority shall initiate a proceeding to consider the implementation of  
769     the residential customer credit and waiver provisions of this section and  
770     establish circumstances, standards and methodologies applicable to  
771     each electric distribution company and necessary to implement the  
772     provisions of this section, including any modifications to the ninety-six-  
773     consecutive-hour standard in subsection (b) of this section. The  
774     authority shall issue a final decision in such proceeding on or before July  
775     1, 2021.

776     Sec. 10. Section 16-32m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
777     following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

778     (a) For the purposes of this section:

779     (1) "Emergency" means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high  
780     water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, landslide, mudslide,  
781     snowstorm, drought or fire explosion that results in sixty-nine per cent  
782     or less of the electric distribution company's customers experiencing an  
783     outage at the period of peak electrical demand;

784     (2) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as  
785     provided in section 16-1; and

786     (3) "After the occurrence of an emergency" means the conclusion of  
787     the emergency, as determined by the authority in its discretion, through

788 a review of the following: (A) The time when the electric distribution  
789 company could first deploy resources safely in its service territory; (B)  
790 the first of any official declarations concerning the end of the emergency;  
791 or (C) the expiration of the first of any National Weather Service  
792 warning applicable to the service territory.

793 (b) On and after July 1, 2021, each electric distribution company shall  
794 provide to each residential customer compensation in an amount of two  
795 hundred fifty dollars, in the aggregate, for any medication and food that  
796 expires or spoils due to a distribution-system service outage that lasts  
797 more than ninety-six consecutive hours in duration after the occurrence  
798 of an emergency.

799 (c) Any costs incurred by an electric distribution company pursuant  
800 to this section shall not be recoverable.

801 (d) Not later than fourteen calendar days after the occurrence of an  
802 emergency, an electric distribution company may petition the authority  
803 for a waiver of the requirements of this section. Any petition for a waiver  
804 made under this subsection shall include the severity of the emergency,  
805 line and restoration crew safety issues and conditions on the ground,  
806 and shall be conducted as a contested case proceeding. The burden of  
807 proving that such waiver is reasonable and warranted shall be on the  
808 electric distribution company. In determining whether to grant such  
809 waiver, the authority shall consider whether the electric distribution  
810 company received approval and reasonable funding allowances, as  
811 determined by the authority, to meet infrastructure resiliency efforts to  
812 improve such company's performance.

813 (e) No electric distribution company shall require any line and  
814 restoration crew member to work in unsafe conditions to avoid  
815 providing credits to customer accounts pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
816 section or for any other reason.

817 (f) No electric distribution company shall discipline, terminate,  
818 withhold wages from or otherwise retaliate against any line and

819 restoration crew member for failing to restore a distribution system  
 820 outage within the ninety-six-hour period specified in subsection (b) of  
 821 this section.

822 [(e)] (g) On or before January 1, 2021, the Public Utilities Regulatory  
 823 Authority shall initiate a proceeding to consider the implementation of  
 824 the compensation reimbursement and waiver provisions of this section  
 825 and establish circumstances, standards and methodologies applicable to  
 826 each electric distribution company and necessary to implement the  
 827 provisions of this section, including any modifications to the ninety-six-  
 828 consecutive-hour standard in subsection (b) of this section. The  
 829 authority shall issue a final decision in such proceeding on or before July  
 830 1, 2021.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	22a-136
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-102(a)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3j
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3m
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-32e
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-32l
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-32m

**Statement of Purpose:**

To improve service and reduce costs for electricity ratepayers in the state.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.  
 SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.; SEN. CABRERA, 17th Dist.

SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.; SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.  
SEN. GADKAR-WILCOX, 22nd Dist.; SEN. GASTON, 23rd Dist.  
SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.; SEN. HOCHADEL, 13th Dist.  
SEN. HONIG, 8th Dist.; SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.  
SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.; SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.  
SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.; SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.  
SEN. MARX, 20th Dist.; SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.  
SEN. MILLER P., 27th Dist.; SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.  
SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.; SEN. RAHMAN, 4th Dist.  
SEN. SLAP, 5th Dist.; SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.  
REP. REYES, 75th Dist.; REP. MARTINEZ, 22nd Dist.

S.B. 4