



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 4

January Session, 2025



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 Section 22a-136 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 [until the] in the state unless:

13 (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection finds
14 that the United States Government, through its authorized agency, has
15 identified and approved a demonstrable technology or means for the
16 disposal of high level nuclear waste; [The provisions of this section
17 shall not apply to construction at any nuclear power generating facility

18 operating in the state as of October 1, 2022. As used in this section, "high
19 level nuclear waste" means those aqueous wastes resulting from the
20 operation of the first cycle of the solvent extraction system or equivalent
21 and the concentrated wastes of the subsequent extraction cycles or
22 equivalent in a facility for reprocessing irradiated reactor fuel and shall
23 include spent fuel assemblies prior to fuel reprocessing.]

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

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

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

49 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, (1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

78 (c) The commissioner may use bond funds authorized in support of
79 the program or federal funds allocated to the state in support of the
80 program established under this section. In the case of federal funds

81 allocated for such purposes, the commissioner may revise its advanced
82 nuclear reactor and offshore wind and energy site readiness grant
83 program criteria to be consistent with the requirements of the federal
84 funding program criteria. The commissioner may use said funds to hire
85 a technical consultant to support the implementation of this section.

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

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

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

99 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
100 coordinate all atomic development activities in the state. Said
101 commissioner or [his] the commissioner's designee shall (1) advise the
102 Governor with respect to atomic industrial development within the
103 state; (2) act as coordinator of the development and regulatory activities
104 of the state relating to the industrial and commercial uses of atomic
105 energy; (3) act as the Governor's designee in matters relating to atomic
106 energy, including participation in the activities of any committee
107 formed by the New England states to represent their interests in such
108 matters and also cooperation with other states and with the government
109 of the United States; (4) coordinate the studies, recommendations and
110 proposals of the several departments and agencies of the state required
111 by section 16a-103 with each other and also with the programs and
112 activities of the development commission; and (5) act as a point of

113 contact for public and private stakeholders to assist in compliance with
114 federal, state and local requirements relevant to atomic development,
115 including, but not limited to, siting considerations and permitting
116 requirements. The commissioner shall consult with and review
117 regulations and procedures of the agencies of the state with respect to
118 the regulation of sources of radiation to assure consistency and to
119 prevent unnecessary duplication, inconsistencies or gaps in regulatory
120 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 for 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. Such 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.

831 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2025,
832 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall open an uncontested
833 proceeding, or amend the notice of proceeding in an active proceeding,
834 to evaluate the criteria and standards related to appropriate protections

835 from service termination for customers of a regulated gas company or
836 electric distribution company, as those terms are defined in section 16-1
837 of the general statutes, with a serious illness or life-threatening medical
838 condition. Such evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to:

839 (1) Reviewing protections for customers with a serious illness or life-
840 threatening medical condition, and making recommendations on
841 appropriate standards for conditioning protections to such customers
842 on their ability to pay;

843 (2) Evaluating whether additional notice requirements prior to
844 shutoff would be appropriate for customers with a serious illness and
845 life-threatening medical condition;

846 (3) Evaluating the current procedures and practices and the relevant
847 information collected for verification of hardship status;

848 (4) Evaluating the impact on the ratepayers; and

849 (5) Evaluating the requirement for a medical hardship customer to
850 enroll in a payment plan.

851 (b) Not later than February 4, 2026, the chairperson of the Public
852 Utilities Regulatory Authority shall submit a report, in accordance with
853 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
854 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
855 matters relating to energy and technology, summarizing the results of
856 such proceeding and providing recommendations regarding service
857 termination policies, and procedures evaluated in such proceeding.

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
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*

FIN *Joint Favorable*