



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Committee Bill No. 78**

LCO No. 3855



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT PROVIDING FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATION ON THE  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 16-50j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 (a) There is established the Connecticut Siting Council, hereinafter  
4 referred to in this title as the "council", which shall be within the  
5 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for administrative  
6 purposes only.

7 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the council  
8 shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
9 Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (2) the chairperson of the  
10 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or the chairperson's designee; (3)  
11 one designee of the speaker of the House and one designee of the  
12 president pro tempore of the Senate; and (4) five public members, to be  
13 appointed by the Governor, at least two of whom shall be experienced  
14 in the field of ecology, and all five of whom shall, consistent with the  
15 provisions of section 4-9a, have no substantial financial interest in, not

16 be employed in or by, and not be professionally affiliated with any (A)  
17 utility, (B) facility, (C) hazardous waste facility, as defined in section  
18 22a-115, or (D) ash residue disposal area, and shall have had no  
19 professional affiliation with any such utility, facility, hazardous waste  
20 facility or ash residue disposal area for three years preceding such  
21 public member's appointment to the council.

22 (c) For proceedings under chapter 445, the council shall consist of (1)  
23 the Commissioners of Public Health and Emergency Services and Public  
24 Protection or their designated representatives; (2) the designees of the  
25 speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore  
26 of the Senate as provided in subsection (b) of this section; (3) the five  
27 public members as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and (4) four  
28 ad hoc members, appointed by the chief elected official of the  
29 municipality each such member represents, three of whom shall be  
30 electors from the municipality in which the proposed facility is to be  
31 located and one of whom shall be an elector from a neighboring  
32 municipality likely to be most affected by the proposed facility.

33 (d) For any proceeding that occurs on or after the effective date of this  
34 section, in addition to the membership provided for in subsection (b) or  
35 (c) of this section, as applicable, the council shall consist of one elector  
36 from the municipality in which such facility is proposed to be located,  
37 as appointed by the chief elected official of such municipality. In the  
38 event that such facility will be located in two or more municipalities,  
39 one such elector shall be appointed by the applicable regional council of  
40 governments for the affected municipalities. Each such member shall  
41 serve as a nonvoting member for purposes of such proceeding and shall  
42 abide by all applicable rules of confidentiality concerning such  
43 proceeding.

44 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) For the appointment of ad hoc members in accordance with  
45 subsection (c) of this section, the municipality most affected by the  
46 proposed facility shall be determined by the permanent members of the  
47 council. If any one of the five public members or of the designees of the  
48 speaker of the House of Representatives or the president pro tempore of

49 the Senate resides (1) in the municipality in which a hazardous waste  
50 facility is proposed to be located for a proceeding concerning a  
51 hazardous waste facility or in which a low-level radioactive waste  
52 facility is proposed to be located for a proceeding concerning a low-level  
53 radioactive waste facility, or (2) in the neighboring municipality likely  
54 to be most affected by the proposed facility, the appointing authority  
55 shall appoint a substitute member for the proceedings on such proposal.  
56 If any appointee is unable to perform such appointee's duties on the  
57 council due to illness, or has a substantial financial or employment  
58 interest which is in conflict with the proper discharge of the appointee's  
59 duties under this chapter, the appointing authority shall appoint a  
60 substitute member for proceedings on such proposal. An appointee  
61 shall report any substantial financial or employment interest which  
62 might conflict with the proper discharge of the appointee's duties under  
63 this chapter to the appointing authority who shall determine if such  
64 conflict exists. If any state agency is the applicant, an appointee shall not  
65 be deemed to have a substantial employment conflict of interest because  
66 of employment with the state unless such appointee is directly  
67 employed by the state agency making the application. Ad hoc members  
68 shall continue their membership until the council issues a letter of  
69 completion of the development and management plan to the applicant.

70     [(e)] (f) The chairperson of the council shall be appointed by the  
71 Governor from among the five public members appointed by the  
72 Governor, with the advice and consent of the House or Senate, and shall  
73 serve as chairperson at the pleasure of the Governor.

74     [(f)] (g) The public members of the council, including the chairperson,  
75 the members appointed by the speaker of the House and president pro  
76 tempore of the Senate and the four ad hoc members specified in  
77 subsection (c) of this section, shall be compensated for their attendance  
78 at public hearings, executive sessions, or other council business as may  
79 require their attendance at the rate of two hundred dollars, provided in  
80 no case shall the daily compensation exceed two hundred dollars.

81     [(g)] (h) The council shall employ such employees as may be

82 necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and such  
83 employees shall, in the aggregate, have sufficient expertise in  
84 engineering and financial analysis to carry out the provisions of this  
85 chapter.

86     ~~[(h)]~~ (i) The council shall, in addition to its other duties prescribed in  
87 this chapter, adopt, amend, or rescind suitable regulations to carry out  
88 the provisions of this chapter and the policies and practices of the  
89 council in connection therewith, and appoint and prescribe the duties of  
90 such staff as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.  
91 The chairperson of the council, with the consent of five or more other  
92 members of the council, may appoint an executive director, who shall  
93 be the chief administrative officer of the Connecticut Siting Council. The  
94 executive director shall be exempt from classified service.

95     ~~[(i)]~~ (j) Prior to commencing any hearing pursuant to section 16-50m,  
96 the council shall consult with and solicit written comments from (1) the  
97 Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection, Public Health,  
98 Agriculture, Economic and Community Development and  
99 Transportation and the Council on Environmental Quality, the Public  
100 Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Office of Policy and Management  
101 and the Office of Consumer Counsel, and (2) in a hearing pursuant to  
102 section 16-50m, for a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection  
103 (a) of section 16-50i, the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
104 Protection, the Department of Administrative Services, the Labor  
105 Department and the Office of Consumer Counsel. Copies of such  
106 comments shall be made available to all parties prior to the  
107 commencement of the hearing. Subsequent to the commencement of the  
108 hearing, said departments, Council on Environmental Quality,  
109 authority and offices may file additional written comments with the  
110 Connecticut Siting Council within such period of time as the  
111 Connecticut Siting Council designates. All such written comments shall  
112 be made part of the record, as provided in section 16-50o. Said  
113 departments, Council on Environmental Quality, authority and offices  
114 shall not enter any contract or agreement with any party to the  
115 proceedings or hearings described in this section or section 16-50p that

116 requires said departments, Council on Environmental Quality,  
117 authority or offices to withhold or retract comments, refrain from  
118 participating in or withdraw from said proceedings or hearings.

119 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 16-50l of the general statutes is  
120 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
121 *1, 2025*):

122 (b) Each application shall be accompanied by proof of service of a  
123 copy of such application on: (1) Each municipality in which any portion  
124 of such facility is to be located, both as primarily proposed and in the  
125 alternative locations listed, and any adjoining municipality having a  
126 boundary not more than two thousand five hundred feet from such  
127 facility, which copy shall be served on the chief executive officer of each  
128 such municipality and shall include notice of the date on or about which  
129 the application is to be filed, and the zoning commissions, planning  
130 commissions, planning and zoning commissions, conservation  
131 commissions and inland wetlands agencies of each such municipality,  
132 and the regional councils of governments which encompass each such  
133 municipality; (2) the Attorney General; (3) each member of the  
134 legislature in whose assembly or senate district the facility or any  
135 alternative location listed in the application is to be located; (4) any  
136 agency, department or instrumentality of the federal government that  
137 has jurisdiction, whether concurrent with the state or otherwise, over  
138 any matter that would be affected by such facility; (5) each state  
139 department and agency named in subsection [(i)] (j) of section 16-50j, as  
140 amended by this act; and (6) such other state and municipal bodies as  
141 the council may by regulation designate. A notice of such application  
142 shall be given to the general public, in municipalities entitled to receive  
143 notice under subdivision (1) of this subsection, by the publication of a  
144 summary of such application and the date on or about which it will be  
145 filed. Such notice shall be published under the regulations to be  
146 promulgated by the council, in such form and in such newspapers as  
147 will serve substantially to inform the public of such application and to  
148 afford interested persons sufficient time to prepare for and to be heard  
149 at the hearing prescribed in section 16-50m. Such notice shall be

150 published in not less than ten-point type. A notice of such an application  
 151 for a certificate for a facility described in subdivision (3), (4), (5) or (6) of  
 152 subsection (a) of section 16-50i shall also be sent, by certified or  
 153 registered mail, to each person appearing of record as an owner of  
 154 property which abuts the proposed primary or alternative sites on  
 155 which the facility would be located. Such notice shall be sent at the same  
 156 time that notice of such application is given to the general public. Notice  
 157 of an application for a certificate for a facility described in subdivision  
 158 (1) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i shall also be provided to each  
 159 electric distribution company customer in the municipality where the  
 160 facility is proposed to be placed. Such notice shall (A) be provided on a  
 161 separate enclosure with each customer's monthly bill for one or more  
 162 months, (B) be provided by the electric distribution company not earlier  
 163 than sixty days prior to filing the application with the council, but not  
 164 later than the date that the application is filed with the council, and (C)  
 165 include: A brief description of the project, including its location relative  
 166 to the affected municipality and adjacent streets; a brief technical  
 167 description of the project including its proposed length, voltage, and  
 168 type and range of heights of support structures or underground  
 169 configuration; the reason for the project; the address and a toll-free  
 170 telephone number of the applicant by which additional information  
 171 about the project can be obtained; and a statement in print no smaller  
 172 than twenty-four-point type size stating "NOTICE OF PROPOSED  
 173 CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC  
 174 TRANSMISSION LINE".

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

Section 1	October 1, 2025	16-50j
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	16-50l(b)

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable*