



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1193

LCO No. 2482



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

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

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 Section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 (a) There shall continue to be a Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
4 within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which
5 shall consist of [five electors of this state,] three utility commissioners,
6 each of whom shall be an elector of the state and appointed by the
7 Governor with the advice and consent of both houses of the General
8 Assembly. Not more than [three members] two utility commissioners of
9 said authority in office at any one time shall be members of any one
10 political party. [The Governor shall appoint five members to the
11 authority.] The procedure prescribed in section 4-7 shall apply to such
12 appointments, except that the Governor shall submit each nomination
13 on or before May first, and both houses shall confirm or reject it before
14 adjournment sine die. Any utility commissioner appointed by the
15 Governor and confirmed by both chambers of the General Assembly

16 between February 1, 2019, and June 1, 2019, shall serve a term expiring
 17 on March 1, 2024. [Any utility commissioner appointed by the Governor
 18 and confirmed by both houses of the General Assembly between
 19 February 1, 2018, and June 1, 2018, shall serve a term expiring on March
 20 1, 2022. Between July 1, 2019, and May 1, 2020, the Governor shall
 21 appoint three utility commissioners, provided one such commissioner
 22 shall serve a term expiring on March 1, 2021, and two such
 23 commissioners shall serve terms expiring on March 1, 2023.] Any utility
 24 commissioner appointed on or after May 1, 2020, shall serve a term of
 25 four years. The utility commissioners shall be sworn to the faithful
 26 performance of their duties.

27 (b) [Not later than June 30, 2023, and between] Between June first and
 28 June thirtieth in each odd-numbered year, [thereafter,] the Governor
 29 shall select the chairperson of the authority from among the utility
 30 commissioners. The chairperson shall serve a two-year term starting on
 31 July first of the same year. Each June, the utility commissioners shall
 32 choose, from among said commissioners, a vice-chairperson, who shall
 33 serve for a one-year term starting on July first of the same year. The vice-
 34 chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson in his or her
 35 absence.

36 (c) Any matter coming before the authority may be assigned by the
 37 chairperson to [a panel of three] one or more utility commissioners.
 38 Except as otherwise provided by statute or regulation, [the panel] any
 39 such utility commissioner shall determine whether a public hearing
 40 shall be held on the matter, and may designate one or [more of its
 41 members] two utility commissioners to conduct such hearing or may
 42 assign a hearing officer to ascertain the facts and report thereon to the
 43 [panel] designated commissioner or commissioners. The decision of [the
 44 panel] any such designated utility commissioner or commissioners, as
 45 applicable, if unanimous, shall be the decision of the authority. If the
 46 decision [of the panel] is not unanimous, the matter shall be approved
 47 by a majority vote of all of the utility commissioners.

48 (d) The utility commissioners of the Public Utilities Regulatory
49 Authority shall serve full time and shall file a statement of financial
50 interests with the Office of State Ethics in accordance with section 1-83.
51 Each utility commissioner shall receive annually a salary equal to that
52 established for management pay plan salary group seventy-five by the
53 Commissioner of Administrative Services, except that the chairperson
54 shall receive annually a salary equal to that established for management
55 pay plan salary group seventy-seven.

56 (e) To insure the highest standard of public utility regulation, on and
57 after October 1, 2007, any newly appointed utility commissioner of the
58 authority shall have education or training and three or more years of
59 experience in one or more of the following fields: Economics,
60 engineering, law, accounting, finance, utility regulation, public or
61 government administration, consumer advocacy, business
62 management, and environmental management. On and after July 1,
63 1997, at least three of these fields shall be represented on the authority
64 by individual utility commissioners at all times. Any time a utility
65 commissioner is newly appointed, at least one of the utility
66 commissioners shall have experience in utility customer advocacy.

67 (f) (1) The chairperson of the authority, with the approval of the
68 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall prescribe
69 the duties of the staff assigned to the authority in order to (A) conduct
70 comprehensive planning with respect to the functions of the authority;
71 (B) cause the administrative organization of the authority to be
72 examined with a view to promoting economy and efficiency; and (C)
73 organize the authority into such divisions, bureaus or other units as
74 necessary for the efficient conduct of the business of the authority and
75 may from time to time make recommendations to the Commissioner of
76 Energy and Environmental Protection regarding staff and resources.

77 (2) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in
78 order to implement the comprehensive planning and organizational
79 structure established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall

80 (A) coordinate the activities of the authority and prescribe the duties of
81 the staff assigned to the authority; (B) for any proceeding on a proposed
82 rate amendment in which staff of the authority are to be made a party
83 pursuant to section 16-19j, determine which staff shall appear and
84 participate in the proceedings and which shall serve the [members of
85 the authority] utility commissioners; (C) enter into such contractual
86 agreements, in accordance with established procedures, as may be
87 necessary for the discharge of the authority's duties; (D) subject to the
88 provisions of section 4-32, and unless otherwise provided by law,
89 receive any money, revenue or services from the federal government,
90 corporations, associations or individuals, including payments from the
91 sale of printed matter or any other material or services; and (E) require
92 the staff of the authority to have expertise in public utility engineering
93 and accounting, finance, economics, computers and rate design.

94 (g) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
95 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
96 Protection assigned to work with the authority shall have any interest,
97 financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business,
98 employment, transaction or professional activity, or incur any
99 obligation of any nature, which is in substantial conflict with the proper
100 discharge of his or her duties or employment in the public interest and
101 of his or her responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, as
102 defined in section 1-85, concerning any matter within the jurisdiction of
103 the authority; provided, no such substantial conflict shall be deemed to
104 exist solely by virtue of the fact that a utility commissioner of the
105 authority or employee of the department assigned to work with the
106 authority, or any business in which such a person has an interest,
107 receives utility service from one or more Connecticut utilities under the
108 normal rates and conditions of service.

109 (h) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
110 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
111 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such assignment,
112 shall accept other employment which will either impair his or her

113 independence of judgment as to his or her official duties or employment
114 or require him or her, or induce him or her, to disclose confidential
115 information acquired by him or her in the course of and by reason of his
116 or her official duties.

117 (i) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
118 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
119 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such assignment,
120 shall wilfully and knowingly disclose, for pecuniary gain, to any other
121 person, confidential information acquired by him or her in the course of
122 and by reason of his or her official duties or employment or use any such
123 information for the purpose of pecuniary gain.

124 (j) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
125 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
126 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such assignment,
127 shall agree to accept, or be in partnership or association with any person,
128 or a member of a professional corporation or in membership with any
129 union or professional association which partnership, association,
130 professional corporation, union or professional association agrees to
131 accept any employment, fee or other thing of value, or portion thereof,
132 in consideration of his or her appearing, agreeing to appear, or taking
133 any other action on behalf of another person before the authority, the
134 Connecticut Siting Council, the Office of Policy and Management or the
135 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

136 (k) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
137 Authority shall, for a period of one year following the termination of his
138 or her service as a utility commissioner, accept employment: (1) By a
139 public service company or by any person, firm or corporation engaged
140 in lobbying activities with regard to governmental regulation of public
141 service companies; (2) by a certified telecommunications provider or by
142 any person, firm or corporation engaged in lobbying activities with
143 regard to governmental regulation of persons, firms or corporations so
144 certified; or (3) by an electric supplier or by any person, firm or

145 corporation engaged in lobbying activities with regard to governmental
146 regulation of electric suppliers. No such utility commissioner who is
147 also an attorney shall in any capacity, appear or participate in any
148 matter, or accept any compensation regarding a matter, before the
149 authority, for a period of one year following the termination of his or
150 her service as a utility commissioner.

151 (l) The chairperson of the authority shall assign authority staff to
152 fulfill the duties of procurement manager where required pursuant to
153 this title and title 16a.

154 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
155 decisions of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, including, but not
156 limited to, decisions relating to rate amendments arising from the
157 Comprehensive Energy Strategy, the Integrated Resources Plan, the
158 Conservation and Load Management Plan and policies established by
159 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall be
160 guided by said strategy and plans and such policies.

161 (n) Two or more utility commissioners [serving on a panel
162 established] assigned a matter pursuant to subsection (c) of this section
163 may confer or communicate regarding the matter before such [panel]
164 commissioners. Any such conference or communication that does not
165 occur before the public at a hearing or proceeding shall not constitute a
166 meeting as defined in section 1-200.

167 Sec. 2. Section 16-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the
168 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

169 The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall keep [its] the
170 authority's office open during [the usual] normal business hours and
171 shall keep all of [its] the authority's records in such office. The authority
172 shall keep a record of all communications addressed to [it, or to any of
173 its members or employees, officially,] the authority, the utility
174 commissioners and any employee of the authority acting in such
175 employee's official capacity, of all [its and their] the official acts and

176 proceedings of the authority, the utility commissioners and any
177 employee of the authority and of all facts learned in relation to any
178 casualty or accident, with the names of the persons from whom such
179 facts were obtained or by whom they may be proved.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-2
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-6

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce the maximum number of members of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority from five to three.

[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.]