



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1194

LCO No. 3845



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 16-8 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2025*):

4 (a) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may, in [its] the
5 authority's discretion, delegate [its] the authority's powers, in specific
6 cases, to one or more of its [directors] utility commissioners or to a
7 hearing officer to ascertain the facts and report thereon to the authority.
8 The authority, or any [director thereof] utility commissioner, in the
9 performance of [its] the authority's or the utility commissioner's duties
10 or in connection with any hearing, or at the request of any person,
11 corporation, company, [town, borough] municipality or association,
12 may summon and examine, under oath, such witnesses, and may direct
13 the production of, and examine or cause to be produced and examined,
14 such books, records, vouchers, memoranda, documents, letters,
15 contracts or other papers in relation to the affairs of any public service
16 company or person involved in the transportation of gas, as such terms

17 are defined in section 16-280a, as [it] the authority or the utility
 18 commissioner may find advisable, and shall have the same powers in
 19 reference thereto as are vested in magistrates taking depositions. If any
 20 witness objects to testifying or to producing any book or paper on the
 21 ground that such testimony, book or paper may tend to incriminate
 22 [him] such witness, and the authority directs such witness to testify or
 23 to produce such book or paper, and [he] such witness complies, or if [he]
 24 such witness is compelled [so to do] to comply by order of court, [he]
 25 such witness shall not be prosecuted for any matter concerning which
 26 [he or she] such witness has so testified. The fees of witnesses
 27 summoned by the authority to appear before [it] the authority under the
 28 provisions of this section, and the fees for summoning witnesses shall
 29 be the same as in the Superior Court. All such fees, together with any
 30 other expenses authorized by statute, the method of payment of which
 31 is not otherwise provided, shall, when taxed by the authority, be paid
 32 by the state, through the business office of the authority, in the same
 33 manner as court expenses. The authority may designate in specific cases
 34 a hearing officer who may be a member of [its] the authority's technical
 35 staff or a member of the Connecticut Bar engaged for that purpose under
 36 a contract approved by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
 37 Management to hold a hearing and make report thereon to the
 38 authority. A hearing officer so designated shall have the same powers
 39 as the authority, or any [director thereof] utility commissioner, to
 40 conduct a hearing, except that only a [director of the authority] utility
 41 commissioner shall have the power to grant immunity from prosecution
 42 to any witness who objects to testifying or to producing any book or
 43 paper on the ground that such testimony, book or paper may tend to
 44 incriminate [him or her] such witness.

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

Section 1	October 1, 2025	16-8(a)
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Statement of Purpose:

To revise a statute concerning the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

[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.]