



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1531

LCO No. 6554



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC UTILITY TRANSPARENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY.***

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 1-200 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2025*):

4 (1) "Public agency" or "agency" means:

5 (A) Any executive, administrative or legislative office of the state or
6 any political subdivision of the state and any state or town agency, any
7 department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority or official
8 of the state or of any city, town, borough, municipal corporation, school
9 district, regional district or other district or other political subdivision of
10 the state, including any committee of, or created by, any such office,
11 subdivision, agency, department, institution, bureau, board,
12 commission, authority or official, and also includes any judicial office,
13 official, or body or committee thereof but only with respect to its or their

14 administrative functions, and for purposes of this subparagraph,
15 "judicial office" includes, but is not limited to, the Division of Public
16 Defender Services;

17 (B) Any person to the extent such person is deemed to be the
18 functional equivalent of a public agency pursuant to law; [or]

19 (C) Any "implementing agency", as defined in section 32-222; or

20 (D) Any public service company, as defined in section 16-1, with
21 more than two hundred thousand customers in the state, with respect
22 to any portions of its business under the regulation of the Public Utilities
23 Regulatory Authority.

24 Sec. 2. Section 16-243gg of the general statutes is repealed and the
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

26 (a) No electric distribution company, gas company, pipeline
27 company or water company, as such terms are defined in section 16-1,
28 shall recover through rates any direct or indirect cost associated with
29 membership, dues, sponsorships or contributions to a business or
30 industry trade association, group or related entity incorporated under
31 Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
32 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended
33 from time to time.

34 (b) No electric distribution company, gas company, pipeline
35 company or water company, as such terms are defined in section 16-1,
36 shall recover through rates any direct or indirect cost associated with
37 lobbying or legislative action, as such terms are defined in section 1-91.

38 (c) No electric distribution company, gas company, pipeline
39 company or water company, as such terms are defined in section 16-1,
40 shall recover through rates any direct or indirect cost associated with
41 advertising, marketing, communications that seek to influence public
42 opinion or any other related costs identified by the authority, unless

43 such marketing, advertising, communications or related costs are
44 specifically approved or ordered by the authority or the Department of
45 Energy and Environmental Protection.

46 (d) No electric distribution company, gas company, pipeline
47 company or water company, as such terms are defined in section 16-1,
48 shall recover through rates any direct or indirect cost associated with (1)
49 travel, lodging or food and beverage expenses for such company's board
50 of directors and officers or the board of directors and officers of such
51 company's parent company; (2) entertainment or gifts; (3) any owned,
52 leased or chartered aircraft for such company's board of directors and
53 officers or the board of directors and officers of such company's parent
54 company; or (4) investor relations.

55 (e) No electric distribution company, gas company, pipeline
56 company or water company that is a public agency, as defined in section
57 1-200, as amended by this act, shall recover through rates any direct or
58 indirect costs associated with complying with the provisions of the
59 Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, as amended by
60 this act.

61 [(e)] (f) On or before January 15, 2024, and annually thereafter, each
62 electric distribution company, gas company, pipeline company or water
63 company, as such terms are defined in section 16-1, with more than
64 seventy-five thousand customers shall report to the authority an
65 itemized list of costs associated with the activities described in this
66 section and subsection (b) of section 16-243p in a form prescribed by the
67 authority. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Any
68 costs spent by the parent company or affiliates of the public service
69 company directly billed or allocated to the public service company; (2)
70 a list of the title, job description and salary of any employees of the
71 public service company who performed work associated with the
72 activities described in this section or in subsection (b) of section 16-243p
73 and the hours attributed to such work; (3) a list of the title, job
74 description and salary of any employees of the parent company or

75 affiliate who performed work associated with the activities described in
 76 this section or in subsection (b) of section 16-243p and the hours
 77 attributed to such work that were directly billed or allocated to the
 78 public service company; (4) an itemized list of costs that the public
 79 service company made to all third-party vendors for any expenses
 80 associated with the activities described in this section or in subsection
 81 (b) of section 16-243p including unredacted billing amounts, billing
 82 dates, payees and explanation of the expenditure in detail sufficient to
 83 describe the purpose of the cost; and (5) any other itemized information
 84 deemed relevant by the authority. No electric distribution company, gas
 85 company, pipeline company or water company, as such terms are
 86 defined in section 16-1, shall recover through rates any costs associated
 87 with the preparation of such report.

88 Sec. 3. Subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 16-245m of the
 89 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 90 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

91 (3) Programs included in the plan developed under subdivision (1) of
 92 this subsection shall be screened through cost-effectiveness testing that
 93 compares the value and payback period of program benefits for all
 94 energy savings to program costs to ensure that programs are designed
 95 to obtain energy savings and system benefits, including mitigation of
 96 federally mandated congestion charges, whose value is greater than the
 97 costs of the programs. Program cost-effectiveness shall be reviewed by
 98 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection annually, or
 99 otherwise as is practicable, and shall incorporate the results of the
 100 evaluation process set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection, except
 101 the Home Energy Solutions Audit program, which shall be subject to
 102 audit by the Auditors of Public Accounts not less than biennially, in lieu
 103 of review by the commissioner. If a program is determined to fail the
 104 cost-effectiveness test as part of the review process, it shall either be
 105 modified to meet the test or shall be terminated, unless it is integral to
 106 other programs that in combination are cost-effective. On or before
 107 March 1, 2005, and on or before March first annually thereafter, the

board shall provide a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and the environment that documents (A) expenditures and fund balances and evaluates the cost-effectiveness of such programs conducted in the preceding year, and (B) the extent to and manner in which the programs of such board collaborated and cooperated with programs, established under section 7-233y, of municipal electric energy cooperatives. To maximize the reduction of federally mandated congestion charges, programs in the plan may allow for disproportionate allocations between the amount of contributions pursuant to this section by a certain rate class and the programs that benefit such a rate class. Before conducting such evaluation, the board shall consult with the board of directors of the Connecticut Green Bank. The report shall include a description of the activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(e) To [insure] ensure the highest standard of public utility regulation, on and after October 1, 2007, any newly appointed utility commissioner of the authority shall have education or training and three or more years of experience in one or more of the following fields: Economics, engineering, law, accounting, finance, utility regulation, public or government administration, consumer advocacy, business management, and environmental management. On and after July 1, 1997, at least three of these fields shall be represented on the authority by individual utility commissioners at all times. [Any time a utility commissioner is newly appointed, at least one of the utility commissioners shall have experience in utility customer advocacy] On and after October 1, 2025, any appointments shall ensure that at least one member has expertise in economics, accounting, forensic auditing or financial regulation; at least one member has experience in utility customer advocacy, with public service or administration experience; and at least one member has a law degree with experience in

141 administrative or utility regulatory law, provided at least half of the
142 appointed commissioners shall not have had prior employment with an
143 entity regulated by the authority. No person who is an executive of a
144 company or other entity that has received a notice of violation from the
145 authority or an equivalent agency, or who has been an executive or
146 principal of a company or other entity that has engaged in litigation with
147 the authority or an equivalent agency, shall be eligible to serve as utility
148 commissioner.

149 Sec. 5. Section 16-9 of the general statutes is repealed and the
150 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

151 All decisions, orders and authorizations of the Public Utilities
152 Regulatory Authority shall be in writing and shall specify the reasons
153 therefor, shall be filed and kept in the office of the authority and
154 recorded in a book kept by it for that purpose and shall be public
155 records. Said authority may, at any time, for cause shown, upon hearing
156 had after notice to all parties in interest not less than two weeks prior to
157 such hearing, rescind, reverse or alter any decision, order or
158 authorization by it made. Written notice of all orders, decisions or
159 authorizations issued by the authority shall be given to the company or
160 person affected thereby, by personal service upon such company or
161 person or by registered or certified mail, as the authority determines.
162 Any final decision, order or authorization of the Public Utilities
163 Regulatory Authority in a contested case shall constitute a final decision
164 for the purposes of chapter 54.

165 Sec. 6. Section 16-25 of the general statutes is repealed and the
166 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

167 The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall fix a time and place
168 for all hearings and shall mail notice thereof to such parties in interest
169 as the authority deems necessary and give public notice thereof at least
170 [one week] two weeks prior to any such hearing.

171 Sec. 7. Subsection (k) of section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed

172 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

173 (k) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
174 Authority shall, for a period of [one year] five years following the
175 termination of his or her service as a utility commissioner, accept
176 employment: (1) By a public service company or by any person, firm or
177 corporation engaged in lobbying activities with regard to governmental
178 regulation of public service companies; (2) by a certified
179 telecommunications provider or by any person, firm or corporation
180 engaged in lobbying activities with regard to governmental regulation
181 of persons, firms or corporations so certified; or (3) by an electric
182 supplier or by any person, firm or corporation engaged in lobbying
183 activities with regard to governmental regulation of electric suppliers.
184 No such utility commissioner who is also an attorney shall in any
185 capacity, appear or participate in any matter, or accept any
186 compensation regarding a matter, before the authority, for a period of
187 one year following the termination of his or her service as a utility
188 commissioner.

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

191 (g) No utility commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory
192 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
193 Protection assigned to work with the authority shall have any interest,
194 financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business,
195 employment, transaction or professional activity, or incur any
196 obligation of any nature, which is in substantial conflict with the proper
197 discharge of his or her duties or employment in the public interest and
198 of his or her responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, as
199 defined in section 1-85, concerning any matter within the jurisdiction of
200 the authority; provided, no such substantial conflict shall be deemed to
201 exist solely by virtue of the fact that a utility commissioner of the
202 authority or employee of the department assigned to work with the
203 authority, or any business in which such a person has an interest,

204 receives utility service from one or more Connecticut utilities under the
205 normal rates and conditions of service. For purposes of this subsection,
206 a utility commissioner who has been employed in a profession regulated
207 by the authority shall be deemed to have such a substantial conflict in
208 matters concerning the former employer of such commissioner or an
209 entity affiliated with such employer for a period of not less than five
210 years after the termination of such employment, and such commissioner
211 shall recuse himself or herself from participating in any matter
212 concerning such employer or affiliated entity during such five-year
213 period.

214 Sec. 9. Subsection (n) of section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed
215 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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

221 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 16-19 of the general statutes is
222 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
223 *1, 2025*):

224 (a) No public service company may charge rates in excess of those
225 previously approved by the Public Utilities Control Authority or the
226 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, except that any rate approved by
227 the Public Utilities Commission, the Public Utilities Control Authority
228 or the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall be permitted until
229 amended by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, that rates not
230 approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may be charged
231 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and that the hearing
232 requirements with respect to adjustment clauses are as set forth in
233 section 16-19b. For water companies, existing rates shall include the
234 amount of any adjustments approved pursuant to section 16-262w since

235 the company's most recent general rate case, provided any adjustment
236 amount shall be separately identified in any customer bill. Each public
237 service company shall file any proposed amendment of its existing rates
238 with the authority in such form and in accordance with such reasonable
239 regulations as the authority may prescribe. Each electric distribution,
240 gas or telephone company filing a proposed amendment shall also file
241 with the authority an estimate of the effects of the amendment, for
242 various levels of consumption, on the household budgets of high and
243 moderate income customers and customers having household incomes
244 not more than one hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level.
245 Each electric distribution company shall also file such an estimate for
246 space heating customers. Each water company, except a water company
247 that provides water to its customers less than six consecutive months in
248 a calendar year, filing a proposed amendment, shall also file with the
249 authority a plan for promoting water conservation by customers in such
250 form and in accordance with a memorandum of understanding entered
251 into by the authority pursuant to section 4-67e. Each public service
252 company shall notify each customer who would be affected by the
253 proposed amendment, by mail, at least one week prior to the first public
254 hearing thereon, but not earlier than six weeks prior to such first public
255 hearing, that an amendment has been or will be requested. Such notice
256 shall also indicate (1) the date, time and location of any scheduled public
257 hearing, (2) a statement that customers may provide written comments
258 regarding the proposed amendment to the Public Utilities Regulatory
259 Authority or appear in person at any scheduled public hearing, (3) the
260 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority telephone number for obtaining
261 information concerning the schedule for public hearings on the
262 proposed amendment, and (4) whether the proposed amendment
263 would, in the company's best estimate, increase any rate or charge by
264 five per cent or more, and, if so, describe in general terms any such rate
265 or charge and the amount of the proposed increase. If a company fails
266 to provide adequate notice, the authority shall consider the effective
267 filing date of such company's proposed amendment to be the date that
268 the company provides adequate notice to customers, as determined by

269 the authority. Until the effective filing date, no days shall count toward
270 the time limit for a final decision in this subsection. In the case of a
271 proposed amendment to the rates of any public service company, the
272 authority shall hold one or more public hearings thereon, except as
273 permitted with respect to interim rate amendments by subsections (d)
274 and (g) of this section, and shall make such investigation of such
275 proposed amendment of rates as is necessary to determine whether such
276 rates conform to the principles and guidelines set forth in section 16-19e,
277 or are unreasonably discriminatory or more or less than just, reasonable
278 and adequate, or that the service furnished by such company is
279 inadequate to or in excess of public necessity and convenience, provided
280 the authority may (A) evaluate the reasonableness and adequacy of the
281 performance or service of the public service company using any
282 applicable metrics or standards adopted by the authority pursuant to
283 section 16-244aa, and (B) determine the reasonableness of the allowed
284 rate of return of the public service company based on such performance
285 evaluation, except that no public service company that is an electric
286 distribution company may be allowed a rate of return that exceeds the
287 weighted average cost of capital for such company, as determined by
288 the authority. The authority, if in its opinion such action appears
289 necessary or suitable in the public interest may, and, upon written
290 petition or complaint of the state, under direction of the Governor, shall,
291 make the aforesaid investigation of any such proposed amendment
292 which does not involve an alteration in rates. If the authority finds any
293 proposed amendment of rates to not conform to the principles and
294 guidelines set forth in section 16-19e, or to be unreasonably
295 discriminatory or more or less than just, reasonable and adequate to
296 enable such company to provide properly for the public convenience,
297 necessity and welfare, or the service to be inadequate or excessive, it
298 shall determine and prescribe, as appropriate, an adequate service to be
299 furnished or just and reasonable maximum rates and charges to be made
300 by such company. In the case of a proposed amendment filed by an
301 electric distribution, gas or telephone company, the authority shall also
302 adjust the estimate filed under this subsection of the effects of the

303 amendment on the household budgets of the company's customers, in
304 accordance with the rates and charges approved by the authority. The
305 authority shall issue a final decision on each electric distribution or gas
306 company rate filing not later than three hundred fifty days after the
307 effective filing date of the proposed amendment. The authority shall
308 issue a final decision on all public service company rate filings, except
309 electric distribution or gas company rate filings, not later than two
310 hundred seventy days after the effective filing date of the proposed
311 amendment.

312 Sec. 11. Subsection (g) of section 16-19 of the general statutes is
313 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
314 *1, 2025*)

315 (g) The authority shall hold either a special public hearing or combine
316 an investigation with an ongoing four-year review conducted in
317 accordance with section 16-19a or with a general rate hearing conducted
318 in accordance with subsection (a) of this section on the need for an
319 interim rate decrease (1) when a public service company has, for the
320 rolling twelve-month period ending with the two most recent
321 consecutive financial quarters, earned a return on equity which exceeds
322 the return authorized by the authority by at least one-half of one
323 percentage point, (2) if it finds, in the case of an electric distribution
324 company, a rate of return that exceeds the weighted average cost of
325 capital for such company, as determined by the authority, (3) if it finds
326 that any change in municipal, state or federal tax law creates a
327 significant increase in a company's rate of return, or [(3)] (4) if it provides
328 appropriate notice that a public service company may be collecting rates
329 or may have an authorized rate of return which is or are more than just,
330 reasonable and adequate, as determined by the authority, provided the
331 authority shall require appropriate notice of hearing to the company
332 and its customers who would be affected by an interim rate decrease in
333 such form as the authority deems reasonable. The company shall be
334 required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the authority that earning
335 such a return on equity, having an authorized rate of return or collecting

336 rates which are more than just, reasonable and adequate is directly
 337 beneficial to its customers. At the completion of the proceeding, the
 338 authority may order an interim rate decrease if it finds that such return
 339 on equity or rates exceeds a reasonable rate of return or is more than
 340 just, reasonable and adequate as determined by the authority. Any such
 341 interim rate decrease shall be subject to a customer surcharge if the
 342 interim rates collected by the company are less than the rates finally
 343 approved by the authority or fixed at the conclusion of any appeal taken
 344 as a result of any finding by the authority. Such surcharge shall be
 345 assessed against customers in such amounts and by such procedure as
 346 ordered by the authority.

347 Sec. 12. Subsection (d) of section 16-47 of the general statutes is
 348 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
 349 *1, 2025*):

350 (d) (1) (A) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall investigate
 351 and hold a public hearing on the question of granting its approval with
 352 respect to any application made under subdivision (1) of subsection (b)
 353 of this section or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and
 354 thereafter may approve or disapprove any such application in whole or
 355 in part and upon such terms and conditions as it deems necessary or
 356 appropriate. In connection with its investigation, the authority may
 357 request the views of the gas company, electric distribution company,
 358 water company, telephone company, community antenna television
 359 company or holding company which is the subject of the application
 360 with respect to the proposed acquisition.

361 (B) After the filing of an application satisfying the requirements of
 362 such regulations as the authority may adopt in accordance with the
 363 provisions of chapter 54, but not later than thirty business days after the
 364 filing of such application, the authority shall give prompt notice of the
 365 public hearing to the [person required to file the application] applicant
 366 and to the subject company or holding company. Such hearing shall be
 367 commenced as promptly as practicable after the filing of the application,

368 but not later than sixty business days after [the] such filing.

369 (C) The authority shall make its determination as soon as practicable,
370 but not later than two hundred days after the filing of the application,
371 unless the [person required to file the application] applicant agrees to
372 an extension of time or the authority extends the time as provided in
373 this subsection. The authority may extend the time period for making
374 its determination by not more than thirty days if, before the end of such
375 time period, the authority notifies all parties and intervenors to the
376 proceedings of such extension.

377 (D) The authority may, in its discretion, grant the subject company,
378 certificate holder, provider or holding company the opportunity to
379 participate in the hearing by presenting evidence and oral and written
380 argument.

381 (E) If the authority fails to give notice of its determination to hold a
382 hearing, commence the hearing, or render its determination after the
383 hearing within the time limits specified in this subdivision, the
384 proposed acquisition shall be deemed approved, except no such
385 proposed acquisition shall be deemed approved pursuant to this
386 subparagraph if the applicant (i) seeks approval to control a gas
387 company or electric distribution company, or a holding company
388 thereof, and (ii) already controls a gas company or electric distribution
389 company, or a holding company thereof, in the state.

390 (F) In each proceeding on a written application submitted under said
391 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section or subdivision (1) of
392 subsection (c) of this section, the authority shall, in a manner [which]
393 that treats all parties to the proceeding on an equal basis, take into
394 consideration [(1)] (i) the financial, technological and managerial
395 suitability and responsibility of the applicant, [(2)] (ii) the ability of the
396 gas company, electric distribution company, water company, telephone
397 company, community antenna television company or holding company
398 which is the subject of the application to provide safe, adequate and

399 reliable service to the public through the company's plant, equipment
400 and manner of operation if the application were to be approved, and
401 [(3)] (iii) for an application concerning a telephone company, the effect
402 of approval on the location and accessibility of management and
403 operations and on the proportion and number of state resident
404 employees.

405 (G) The authority shall only grant its approval of an application filed
406 on or after January 1, 2021, made under subdivision (1) of subsection (c)
407 of this section, if the holding company [effects] implements a change in
408 the composition of the board of directors to include a proportional
409 percentage of Connecticut-based directors equivalent to the percentage
410 that Connecticut service areas represent of the total service areas
411 covered by the holding company.

412 (H) On and after October 1, 2025, the authority shall not approve any
413 application made pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this
414 section if the applicant seeking approval to control a gas company or
415 electric distribution company, or a holding company thereof, already
416 controls a gas company or electric distribution company, or a holding
417 company thereof, in the state.

418 (2) (A) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall investigate and
419 hold a public hearing on the question of granting its approval with
420 respect to any application made under subdivision (2) of subsection (b)
421 of this section or subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section and
422 thereafter may approve or disapprove any such application in whole or
423 in part and upon such terms and conditions as it deems necessary or
424 appropriate. In connection with its investigation, the authority may
425 request the views of the subject certificate holder, provider or holding
426 company which is the subject of the application with respect to the
427 proposed acquisition.

428 (B) After the filing of an application satisfying the requirements of
429 such regulations as the authority may adopt in accordance with the

430 provisions of chapter 54, but not later than thirty business days after the
 431 filing of such application, the authority shall give prompt notice of the
 432 public hearing to the [person required to file the application] applicant
 433 and to the subject certificate holder, provider or holding company. Such
 434 hearing shall be commenced as promptly as practicable after the filing
 435 of the application, but not later than sixty business days after [the] such
 436 filing. [, and the]

437 (C) The authority shall make its determination as soon as practicable,
 438 but not later than one hundred eighty days after the filing of the
 439 application [,] unless the [person required to file the application]
 440 applicant agrees to an extension of time or the authority extends the time
 441 as provided in this subsection. The authority may extend the time
 442 period for making its determination by not more than thirty days if,
 443 before the end of such period, the authority notifies all parties and
 444 intervenors to the proceedings of such extension, [. Such authority-
 445 noticed extension may only occur once] provided only one such
 446 extension may be noticed by the authority.

447 (D) The authority shall, upon request of the certificate holder,
 448 provider or holding company, grant the subject company or holding
 449 company the opportunity to participate in the hearing by presenting
 450 evidence and oral and written argument.

451 (E) If the authority fails to give notice of its determination to hold a
 452 hearing, commence the hearing or render its determination after the
 453 hearing within the time limits specified in this subdivision, the
 454 proposed acquisition shall be deemed approved.

455 (F) In each proceeding on a written application submitted under said
 456 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section or subdivision (2) of
 457 subsection (c) of this section, the scope of review for the authority shall
 458 be limited to [(A)] (i) the financial, technological and managerial
 459 suitability and responsibility of the applicant, and [(B)] (ii) the legal,
 460 financial and technical ability of the holder of a certificate of cable

461 franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p, certified
462 telecommunications provider, certified competitive video service
463 provider or holding company which is the subject of the application to
464 provide safe, adequate and reliable service subject to the authority's
465 regulation.

466 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) On and after January 1, 2026,
467 no person, firm or corporation shall control both an electric distribution
468 company and a gas company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general
469 statutes. Any such person, firm or corporation that has control of more
470 than one such company in violation of this section shall divest itself of
471 the additional company and retain no more than one such company by
472 January 1, 2026. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, after
473 notice and hearing in accordance with section 16-10a of the general
474 statutes, as amended by this act, revoke the franchise to operate as a
475 public service company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general
476 statutes, of any person, firm or corporation that is not in compliance
477 with the provisions of this section.

478 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 16-10a of the general statutes is
479 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
480 *1, 2025*):

481 (a) Whenever any person, firm or corporation, incorporated under
482 the general statutes or any special act, is granted a franchise to operate
483 as a public service company, as defined in section 16-1, and fails to
484 provide service which is adequate to serve the public convenience and
485 necessity of any town, city, borough, district or other political
486 subdivision of the state, or any portion thereof, for a period of five years
487 from the date of such franchise or from January 1, 1961, whichever is
488 later, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, on its own initiative, or
489 upon complaint of any such town, city, borough, district or other
490 political subdivision, or on petition of not less than five per cent of the
491 affected persons, but in no event more than one thousand persons, in
492 any such town, city, borough, district or other political subdivision, shall

493 fix a time and place for a hearing to be held thereon. Whenever any such
494 person, firm or corporation fails to comply with the merger prohibition
495 set forth in section 13 of this act, the authority shall fix a time and place
496 for a hearing to be held thereon. The authority shall give notice thereof
497 to all parties in interest and shall make such further investigation into
498 the alleged failure to provide such service or comply with the merger
499 prohibition as it deems necessary. If upon such hearing, said authority
500 finds that the holder of such franchise has failed to provide such service
501 or comply with such prohibition and that there is an immediate need for
502 such service, it may revoke such franchise as to any such town, city,
503 borough, district or political subdivision, or any portion thereof, or
504 make such other order as may be necessary to provide such service.
505 Whenever any person, firm or corporation, incorporated under the
506 general statutes or any special act, is granted a franchise to operate as a
507 railroad company, as defined in section 13b-199, and fails to provide
508 adequate service, or has discontinued the service, on any segment of its
509 lines for which such franchise is granted for a period of five years or
510 more, the franchise for such segment of line shall cease to exist and shall
511 be revoked by the authority for such failure to operate such service or
512 discontinuance of service for a period of five years or more.

513 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding any
514 provision of the general statutes, no state agency, as defined in section
515 4b-13 of the general statutes, quasi-public agency, as defined in section
516 1-120 of the general statutes, or municipality, as defined in section 7-
517 131q of the general statutes, shall offer a right of first refusal for the
518 conveyance of any real property to a public service company, as defined
519 in section 16-1 of the general statutes, prior to offering such property for
520 general sale.

521 Sec. 16. Section 16-19 of the general statutes is amended by adding
522 subsection (i) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

523 (NEW) (i) The authority shall not approve the imposition of any fee
524 by a public service company under this section that would discourage

525 the adoption of grid-enhancing or energy-efficient technologies.

526 Sec. 17. Subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 16-245d of the
527 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
528 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

529 (5) An electric distribution company shall, in accordance with the
530 billing format developed by the authority, include the following
531 information in each customer's bill: (A) The total amount owed by the
532 customer, which shall be itemized using the categories described in
533 subdivision (3) of this subsection; (B) any unpaid amounts from
534 previous bills which shall be listed separately from current charges; (C)
535 except for customers subject to a demand charge, the rate and usage for
536 the current month and each of the previous twelve months in the form
537 of a bar graph or other visual form; (D) the payment due date; (E) the
538 interest rate applicable to any unpaid amount; (F) the toll-free telephone
539 number of the electric distribution company to report power losses; (G)
540 the toll-free telephone number of the Public Utilities Regulatory
541 Authority for questions or complaints; and (H) if a customer has a
542 demand of five hundred kilowatts or less during the preceding twelve
543 months, a statement about the availability of information concerning
544 electric suppliers pursuant to section 16-245p. An electric distribution
545 company shall not impose any additional fees other than those set forth
546 in this subdivision.

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

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-200(1)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-243gg
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-245m(d)(3)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-2(e)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-9
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-25
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-2(k)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-2(g)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-2(n)

Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-19(a)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-19(g)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-47(d)
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-10a(a)
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-19(i)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-245d(a)(5)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) deem certain public service companies a public agency for purposes of the Freedom of Information Act and not permit them to recover through rates costs of compliance with said act, (2) subject the Home Energy Solutions program to audit by the Auditors of Public Accounts, (3) modify the expertise and other requirements of utility commissioner appointments and impose revolving door and substantial conflict recusal requirements, (4) modify other processes of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, (5) prohibit certain mergers of utility companies, (6) prohibit a utility company from owning both gas and electric utilities, (7) prohibit a public utility company from imposing any fees that would discourage the adoption of grid-enhancing and energy-efficient technologies, (8) prohibit a right of first refusal to acquire property by a utility company, and (9) prohibit deceptive fees to utility end use customers.

[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.]