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LCO No. 7573



Offered by:
REP. PARKER, 101st Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5004

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Cal. No. 279

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND ASSOCIATED JOB SECTORS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) In the aggregate, state
4 agencies shall have the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction
5 goals: (1) A forty-five per cent reduction from 2001 levels by 2030; (2) a
6 seventy per cent reduction from 2016 levels by 2040; and (3) achieving a
7 level determined to be net-zero by 2050.

8 (b) Such state agencies shall have the goal of only utilizing zero-
9 carbon generating electricity by 2030.

10 (c) Such state agencies may use the social cost of greenhouse gas
11 emissions when evaluating the costs and benefits of activities and
12 improvements to the facilities of such agencies to meet the goals in this
13 section. For purposes of this section, "social cost" includes, but is not

14 limited to, net agricultural productivity, harms to human health,
15 property damage and the value of ecosystem services.

16 (d) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Energy and
17 Environmental Protection shall publish guidelines for such state
18 agencies on the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions on the
19 department's Internet web site.

20 Sec. 2. Section 22a-200a of the general statutes is repealed and the
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

22 (a) The state shall reduce the level of emissions of greenhouse gas:

23 (1) Not later than January 1, 2020, to a level at least ten per cent below
24 the level emitted in 1990;

25 (2) Not later than January 1, 2030, to a level at least forty-five per cent
26 below the level emitted in 2001;

27 (3) Not later than January 1, 2040, to a level at least sixty-five per cent
28 below the level emitted in 2001, including to a level of zero per cent from
29 electricity supplied to electric customers in the state;

30 (4) Not later than January 1, 2050, to [a level] an economy-wide net-
31 zero level, provided direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gases
32 are at least eighty per cent below the level emitted in 2001; and

33 (5) All of the levels referenced in this subsection shall be determined
34 by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

35 (b) On or before January 1, 2010, and biannually thereafter, the state
36 agencies that are members of the Governor's Steering Committee on
37 Climate Change shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of
38 Policy and Management and the Commissioner of Energy and
39 Environmental Protection. The report shall identify existing and
40 proposed activities and improvements to the facilities of such agencies
41 that are designed to meet state agency energy savings goals established
42 by the Governor. The report shall also identify policies and regulations

43 that could be adopted in the near future by such agencies to reduce
44 greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with subsection (a) of this
45 section.

46 (c) [Not later than January 1, 2012, and every three years thereafter,
47 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in
48 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
49 and the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change, report, in
50 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
51 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
52 relating to the environment, energy and transportation on the
53 quantifiable emissions reductions achieved pursuant to subsection (a)
54 of this section. The report shall include a schedule of proposed
55 regulations, policies and strategies designed to achieve the limits of
56 greenhouse gas emissions imposed by said subsection, an assessment of
57 the latest scientific information and relevant data regarding global
58 climate change and the status of greenhouse gas emission reduction
59 efforts in other states and countries.] The Commissioner of Energy and
60 Environmental Protection shall, not later than January 1, 2026, and
61 annually thereafter, publish an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions
62 sources and carbon sequestered to (1) establish a baseline for such
63 emissions for the state, and (2) report on the quantifiable emissions
64 reductions and carbon sequestration achieved in pursuit of the
65 greenhouse gas emissions levels specified in this section.

66 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall,
67 not later than January 1, 2026, and not more than every three years
68 thereafter, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
69 Management and the Governor's Council on Climate Change, produce
70 a report, with an opportunity for public comment, on the quantifiable
71 emissions reductions and carbon sequestration achieved in pursuit of
72 the greenhouse gas emissions levels specified in this section. The report
73 shall include (1) a schedule of proposed regulations, policies and
74 strategies designed to achieve the limits of greenhouse gas emissions
75 specified in this section, by the relevant date provided, (2) an assessment

76 of the latest scientific information and relevant data regarding global
77 climate change, and (3) the status of greenhouse gas emission reduction
78 efforts in other states and countries. Such proposed regulations, policies
79 and strategies may include carbon sequestration. The commissioner
80 may engage a consultant to assist in preparing such report or portions
81 of such report. The commissioner shall submit such report, in
82 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
83 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
84 relating to the environment, energy and technology and transportation.

85 [(d)] (e) At least one year prior to the effective date of any federally
86 mandated greenhouse cap and trade program including greenhouse gas
87 emissions subject to any state cap and trade requirements adopted
88 pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Energy and
89 Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
90 Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
91 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
92 cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and
93 technology and transportation. Such report shall explain the differences
94 between such federal and state requirements and shall identify any
95 further regulatory or legislative actions needed to achieve consistency
96 with such federal program.

97 Sec. 3. Section 22a-200b of the general statutes is repealed and the
98 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

99 [(a)] (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
100 shall, with the advice and assistance of a nonprofit association
101 organized to provide scientific, technical, analytical and policy support
102 to the air quality and climate programs of northeastern states: (1) Not
103 later than December 1, 2009, publish an inventory of greenhouse gas
104 emissions to establish a baseline for such emissions for the state and
105 publish a summary of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies on
106 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Internet web
107 site, (2) not later than July 1, 2010, publish results of various modeling
108 scenarios concerning greenhouse gas emissions, including, but not

109 limited to, an evaluation of the potential economic and environmental
110 benefits and opportunities for economic growth based on such
111 scenarios, (3) not later than July 1, 2011, analyze greenhouse gas
112 emission reduction strategies and, after an opportunity for public
113 comment, make recommendations on which such strategies will achieve
114 the greenhouse gas emission levels specified in section 22a-200a, and (4)
115 not later than July 1, 2012, and every three years thereafter, develop,
116 with an opportunity for public comment, a schedule of recommended
117 regulatory actions by relevant agencies, policies and other actions
118 necessary to show reasonable further progress towards achieving the
119 greenhouse gas emission levels specified in section 22a-200a.]

120 [(b)] The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with
121 the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of [this
122 section] subsection (d) of section 22a-200a, as amended by this act.
123 Nothing in section 4a-67h, 22a-200 or 22a-200a, as amended by this act,
124 or this section shall limit a state agency from adopting any regulation
125 within its authority in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

126 Sec. 4. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 32-7t of the general
127 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
128 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

129 (3) The commissioner, upon consideration of an application and any
130 additional information, may approve an application in whole or in part
131 or may approve an application with amendments, provided the
132 commissioner may give preference to applications that: (A) Make
133 significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices,
134 including, but not limited to, zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency,
135 (B) are in sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, energy
136 efficiency and zero-emission vehicles, or (C) are for farming operations
137 that are sustainable from a climate perspective. If the commissioner
138 disapproves an application, the commissioner shall identify the defects
139 in such application and explain the specific reasons for the disapproval.
140 The commissioner shall render a decision on an application not later
141 than ninety days after the date of its receipt by the commissioner.

142 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State shall
143 provide a voucher for the amount of any registration or renewal fee for
144 a (1) benefit corporation, as defined in section 33-1351 of the general
145 statutes, provided such corporation submits proof to the Secretary that
146 the corporation meets the parameters of a benefit corporation, as
147 defined in section 33-1351 of the general statutes, or (2) a benefit
148 corporation, as defined in section 33-1351 of the general statutes, that is
149 certified by an entity recognized by the Secretary for such certification
150 purpose.

151 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
152 Connecticut Clean Economy Council that shall advise on economic
153 development strategies and policies that strengthen the state's climate
154 mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability programs, in
155 particular for vulnerable communities, as defined in section 16-243y of
156 the general statutes.

157 (b) Such council shall meet not less than quarterly, at dates, times and
158 locations to be established by the cochairpersons of such council. The
159 council shall: (1) Identify opportunities to leverage state and federal
160 funding to scale economic development and workforce opportunities
161 associated with climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience and
162 sustainability investments, (2) serve as a central coordinating body for
163 climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability workforce
164 efforts and opportunities state wide for a technically advanced,
165 enduring labor force, (3) develop economic development and workforce
166 strategies that support investment and growth of climate mitigation,
167 clean energy, resilience and sustainability job growth, and (4) advise the
168 Governor on any state-wide economic or workforce action plan in clean
169 energy, climate and sustainability.

170 (c) Such council shall develop a plan to facilitate the transition of
171 workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs
172 consistent with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such plan
173 shall be submitted not later than July 1, 2026, to the joint standing
174 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

175 relating to the environment, energy and technology and commerce, in
176 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

177 (d) Such council shall be composed of the following members: (1) The
178 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
179 commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as a cochairperson of the
180 council, (2) the Chief Workforce Officer, or said officer's designee, who
181 shall also serve as a cochairperson of the council, (3) the Commissioner
182 of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's
183 designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson of the council, (4) the
184 Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee, (5)
185 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's
186 designee, (6) a representative from the office of the Governor, (7) the
187 chief executive officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief
188 executive officer's designee, (8) the chief executive officer of Connecticut
189 Innovations, Incorporated, or the chief executive officer's designee, (9)
190 the Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, (10) the
191 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee,
192 (11) one member appointed by the Chief Workforce Officer who shall
193 be a representative of a regional workforce development board, (12) one
194 member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, (13)
195 one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, (14)
196 one member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (15) one
197 member appointed by the majority leader of the House of
198 Representatives, (16) one member appointed by the minority leader of
199 the Senate, (17) one member appointed by the minority leader of the
200 House of Representatives, and (18) any other member so designated by
201 the cochairpersons. Members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (12)
202 to (17), inclusive, of this subsection shall have one or more of the
203 following backgrounds or qualifications: (A) Be a member of the
204 Connecticut Technical Education Career System, (B) be a representative
205 of a nonprofit organization that focuses on helping people overcome
206 barriers to workforce participation, (C) have expertise in hiring and
207 training employees in the trades related to green technologies, (D) be a
208 representative of a higher education institution and have expertise in

209 technical education, or (E) be a member of the Connecticut State
210 Building Trades Council. Any member appointed pursuant to
211 subdivision (18) of this subsection shall serve at the pleasure of the
212 cochairpersons of the council.

213 (e) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a
214 quorum.

215 (f) The cochairpersons shall, in addition to their general duties, have
216 the following specific responsibilities: The cochairperson from the
217 Department of Economic and Community Development shall lead the
218 activities specified in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section and
219 the cochairperson from the Office of Workforce Strategy shall lead the
220 activities specified in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

221 (g) Not later than February 15, 2026, and biannually thereafter, the
222 council shall report on its work, findings and recommendations to the
223 Governor, the Office of Policy and Management, and the joint standing
224 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
225 relating to the environment, energy and technology, higher education
226 and commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
227 general statutes.

228 Sec. 7. Section 31-3rr of the general statutes is repealed and the
229 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

230 (a) As used in this section and section 10a-55g:

231 (1) "Green jobs" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-55d;

232 (2) "Green technology" has the same meaning as provided in section
233 10a-55d; and

234 (3) "Career ladder" means a description of the progression from an
235 entry level position to higher levels of pay, skill, responsibility or
236 authority.

237 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Connecticut Clean Economy

238 Council, in consultation with the Office of Higher Education,
239 Department of Education, Labor Department, Department of Energy
240 and Environmental Protection, regional workforce development boards
241 and employers, shall, within available appropriations, identify a career
242 ladder for jobs in the green technology industry, including, but not
243 limited to, a listing of (1) careers at each level of the green technology
244 industry and the requisite level of education and the salary offered for
245 such career, (2) all course, certificate and degree programs in green jobs
246 offered by technical education and career schools within the Technical
247 Education and Career System and institutions of higher education in the
248 state, and (3) jobs available in the green technology industry in the state.
249 The Connecticut Clean Economy Council shall update the green jobs
250 career ladder established pursuant to this section on an as needed basis.

251 [(c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Connecticut Clean Economy
252 Council shall develop a plan for green jobs workforce training to
253 accomplish the greenhouse gas emissions goals set forth in subsection
254 (a) of section 22a-200a. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited
255 to, (1) development of work-based learning programs for green jobs
256 with workforce shortages; (2) development of certificate and degree
257 programs related to the green technology industry at technical
258 education and career schools and institutions of higher education in the
259 state; (3) identification of available funding, whether from a public or
260 private source, to fund the development of such work-based learning
261 and certificate and degree programs and provide grants to apprentices
262 and students; and (4) a strategy to market and recruit individuals,
263 especially from underrepresented populations, to existing and newly
264 developed green jobs work-based learning programs and certificate and
265 degree programs related to the green technology industry at job centers,
266 technical education and career schools and institutions of higher
267 education. Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, said
268 council shall update such plan as necessary.

269 (d) Not later than February 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
270 Connecticut Clean Economy Council shall submit, in accordance with

271 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
272 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
273 education and employment advancement the plan developed or
274 updated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.]

275 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 10-283 of the general statutes is
276 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
277 *2025*):

278 (b) Notwithstanding the application date requirements of this
279 section, at any time within the limit of available grant authorization and
280 within the limit of appropriated funds, the Commissioner of
281 Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of
282 Education, may approve applications for grants and make payments for
283 such grants, for any of the following reasons: [(A)] (1) To assist school
284 building projects to remedy damage from fire and catastrophe, [(B)] (2)
285 to correct safety, health and other code violations, [(C)] (3) to replace
286 roofs, including the replacement or installation of skylights as part of
287 the roof replacement project, [(D)] (4) to remedy a certified school
288 indoor air quality emergency, [(E)] (5) to install insulation for exterior
289 walls and attics, or [(F)] (6) to purchase and install a limited use and
290 limited access elevator, windows, photovoltaic panels, air source or
291 ground source heat pumps, wind generation systems, building
292 management systems or portable classroom buildings, provided
293 portable classroom building projects shall not create a new facility or
294 cause an existing facility to be modified so that the portable buildings
295 comprise a substantial percentage of the total facility area, as
296 determined by the commissioner.

297 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) The Commissioner of
298 Energy and Environmental Protection shall develop a plan for the
299 installation of efficient heat pumps for affordable heating and cooling
300 systems in the state.

301 (b) Such plan shall provide for the availability of affordable heat
302 pump options, with a focus on heat pump applications that have the

303 greatest potential benefits, including, but not limited to, lowering
304 consumers' energy costs, reducing impacts to the electric grid, and
305 improving building resilience, including, but not limited to: (1)
306 Residences in environmental justice communities, as defined in section
307 22a-20a of the general statutes, and long-term care facilities where not
308 less than eighty per cent of such residents are Medicaid recipients in
309 good financial standing with the state, (2) access to energy efficient,
310 affordable air conditioning for residents experiencing high energy bills
311 and health risks during heat waves, (3) increased resilience during
312 extreme heat events for homes and businesses, (4) improved flood
313 resilience for homes and businesses by enabling home heating systems
314 to be located above ground, (5) low or no interest loans to replace
315 heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment to residences
316 impacted by extreme weather events, (6) cost savings and potential
317 benefits for transitioning from electric resistance heating, (7) analysis of
318 accelerating the adoption of heat pump water heaters, including public
319 education and the possible need for contractor incentives, and (8)
320 potential for a demand response program. Such plan shall describe how
321 the state could best utilize any available or future grant or loan funding.
322 Not later than January 1, 2027, the commissioner shall submit a report,
323 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
324 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
325 cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy and
326 technology on the status of such plan and any recommendations for
327 expanding or revising such plan.

328 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
329 Administrative Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office
330 of Policy and Management, shall develop a model policy or guidelines
331 for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities may
332 voluntarily utilize and implement. Such policy or guidelines shall
333 include, but need not be limited to, a list of any state contracts for
334 sustainable purchasing that allow for municipal participation. The
335 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall post such policy or
336 guidelines on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative

337 Services not later than January 1, 2026.

338 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1,
339 2026, the Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with
340 the Office of Policy and Management, the Departments of Energy and
341 Environmental Protection and Transportation, and any other state
342 agency deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Administrative
343 Services, shall establish a process for said commissioner to consider
344 when making any decision to remodel, alter, repair, construct or enlarge
345 any state real asset, pursuant to section 4b-51 of the general statutes, the
346 capability of such state real asset to: (1) Increase energy efficiency, (2)
347 utilize zero-carbon heating and cooling and water heating alternatives,
348 (3) utilize Class I renewable energy, as defined in section 16-1 of the
349 general statutes, (4) facilitate electric vehicle charging, (5) reduce energy
350 use, and (6) serve as a resilience hub.

351 (b) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Department of Administrative
352 Services, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management and
353 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall develop
354 a plan and a budget to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and
355 cooling systems at state buildings to systems capable of being operated
356 without carbon-emitting fuels. Such plan and budget shall be submitted,
357 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
358 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
359 cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy and
360 technology.

361 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
362 Energy and Environmental Protection shall evaluate how to integrate
363 and advance nature-based solutions in the state that support climate
364 change mitigation, climate change adaptation, ecosystem resilience and
365 biodiversity through (1) the microgrid and resilience grant and loan
366 pilot program authorized pursuant to section 16-243y of the general
367 statutes, (2) the open space and watershed land acquisition program
368 authorized pursuant to sections 7-131d to 7-131k, inclusive, of the
369 general statutes, as amended by this act, and (3) other applicable state

370 and federal programs administered by the Department of Energy and
371 Environmental Protection that advance nature-based solutions,
372 including, but not limited to, (A) federal Clean Water Act programs, (B)
373 the Long Island Sound Study program, and (C) the Urban Forestry
374 program. The department's efforts to advance such nature-based
375 solutions shall be known as the nature-based solutions initiative.

376 (b) The commissioner shall, as part of such evaluation, consider best
377 practices that encourage the use of the state's ecosystems to naturally
378 sequester and store carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase
379 biodiversity and protect against climate change impacts including: (1)
380 Increasing carbon sequestration through increased forest acreage,
381 including reforestation, (2) controlling invasive species, (3) encouraging
382 soil health across all landscapes, (4) protecting carbon stocks through
383 avoiding the conversion of forests and wetlands to other purposes, (5)
384 restoring habitats to improve biodiversity, (6) increasing climate-smart
385 agriculture and soil conservation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
386 while improving habitat and protecting biodiversity, (7) increasing
387 community resilience by improving water quality and addressing
388 flooding and drought through nature-based stormwater management
389 and shoreline protection that uses nature-based approaches such as
390 living shorelines, (8) improving air quality and reducing urban heat
391 island effects through urban forestry and increasing green spaces, and
392 (9) increase access to open space for public health benefits.

393 (c) Not later than July 1, 2026, the commissioner shall post such
394 nature-based solutions initiative program evaluation on the
395 department's Internet web site for review and written comment. As part
396 of that evaluation, the commissioner shall seek review and input from
397 the Departments of Agriculture, Public Health, Housing,
398 Transportation, the Insurance Department, the Connecticut Green Bank
399 and the Office of Policy and Management. In addition, the
400 commissioner shall host one listening session before such nature-based
401 solutions initiative is so posted in order to seek public comment.

402 Sec. 13. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 15, 2027, the

403 chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall submit, in
404 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
405 the results of a study to develop a solar canopy strategic plan and
406 program design to the joint standing committee of the General
407 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
408 technology. The plan shall identify opportunities for solar canopies in
409 the state and shall prioritize the development of solar canopies in
410 environmental justice communities, as defined in section 22a-20a of the
411 general statutes. The plan shall include an examination of different ways
412 to promote solar canopies and shall include recommendations for
413 policies, programs or regulations to promote the construction of solar
414 canopies in the state, consistent with the greenhouse gas reduction goals
415 established in section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended by
416 this act.

417 Sec. 14. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy and
418 Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Office of Consumer
419 Counsel, or such office's designee, shall, in accordance with the
420 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, not later than
421 February 1, 2026, submit to the joint standing committees of the General
422 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and
423 energy and technology, a report with recommended regulations,
424 policies and strategies that can significantly lower energy costs for
425 families and businesses, increase community resilience to extreme
426 weather events, including, but not limited to, flooding and extreme heat
427 and contribute to the greenhouse gas emissions reductions required in
428 section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Such
429 report may utilize modeling scenarios concerning greenhouse gas
430 emissions. The commissioner may engage a consultant to assist in
431 preparing the report or portions thereof.

432 Sec. 15. Subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of section 8-240a of the
433 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
434 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

435 (a) As used in this section, [:

436 (1) "Alliance district" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-
437 262u;

438 (2) "Environmental justice community" has the same meaning as
439 provided in section 22a-20a; and

440 (3) "Low-income resident"] "low-income resident" means, after
441 adjustments for family size, individuals or families whose income is not
442 greater than [(A)] (1) sixty per cent of the state median income, [(B)] (2)
443 eighty per cent of the area median income for the area in which the
444 resident resides, as determined by the United States Department of
445 Housing and Urban Development, or [(C)] (3) any other definition of
446 "low-income resident" included in any program in the state that utilizes
447 federal funding, as determined by the Commissioner of Energy and
448 Environmental Protection.

449 (b) There is established a revolving loan and grant fund to be known
450 as the "Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan and
451 Grant Fund". The fund may be funded from the proceeds of bonds
452 issued pursuant to section 8-240b or from any moneys available to the
453 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection or from other
454 sources. Investment earnings credited to the fund shall become part of
455 the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of
456 any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the fund for the next fiscal
457 year. Payments of principal or interest on a low interest loan made
458 pursuant to this section shall be paid to the State Treasurer for deposit
459 in the Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan and Grant
460 Fund. The fund shall be used to make grants or low interest loans
461 pursuant to this section to pay reasonable and necessary fees incurred
462 in administering loans under this section. The Commissioner of Energy
463 and Environmental Protection may enter into contracts with quasi-
464 public agencies, [or] nonprofit corporations, or electric distribution or
465 gas companies, as such terms are defined in section 16-1, to provide for
466 the administration of the Housing Environmental Improvement
467 Revolving Loan and Grant Fund by such entity or entities, provided no
468 grant or low interest loan shall be made from the fund without the

469 authorization of the commissioner as provided in this section.

470 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
471 collaboration with the Commissioner of Housing, shall establish a pilot
472 program or programs to provide financing or grants from the fund
473 established in subsection (b) of this section for retrofitting projects for
474 single and multifamily residences [located in environmental justice
475 communities or alliance districts] that (1) improve the energy efficiency
476 of such residences, which may include, but need not be limited to, the
477 installation of heat pumps, solar power generating systems, improved
478 roofing, exterior doors and windows, improved insulation, air sealing,
479 improved ventilation, appliance upgrades and any electric system or
480 wiring upgrades necessary for such retrofit, (2) remediate health and
481 safety concerns that are barriers to any such retrofit, including, but not
482 limited to, mold, vermiculite, asbestos, lead and radon, [or] (3) add
483 resilience measures to such residences, which may include, but need not
484 be limited to, flood mitigation, (4) provide services to assist residents
485 and building owners to access and implement the programs established
486 pursuant to this section or other available state or federal programs that
487 enable the implementation of energy efficiency retrofitting, or (5)
488 replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment to
489 residences impacted by extreme weather events.

490 (d) On and after July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and
491 Environmental Protection, or any program administrator the
492 commissioner may designate, shall accept applications, in a form
493 specified by the commissioner, from any owner of a residential dwelling
494 unit for financing or a grant under the program or programs. Any such
495 financing or grant may be awarded to an owner of a residential dwelling
496 unit, as defined in section 47a-1.

497 (e) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
498 [prioritize] limit the awarding of financing or grants [for] to projects that
499 benefit any resident or prospective resident who is a low-income
500 resident.

501 Sec. 16. Section 7-131d of the general statutes is repealed and the
502 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

503 (a) There is established the protected open space and watershed land
504 acquisition grant program. The program shall provide grants to
505 municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire
506 land or permanent interests in land for open space and watershed
507 protection and to water companies, as defined in section 25-32a, to
508 acquire and protect land which is eligible to be classified as class I or
509 class II land, as defined in section 25-37c, after acquisition. All lands or
510 interests in land acquired under this program shall be preserved in
511 perpetuity predominantly in their natural scenic and open condition for
512 the protection of natural resources while allowing for recreation
513 consistent with such protection and, for lands acquired by water
514 companies, allowing for the improvements necessary for the protection
515 or provision of potable water.

516 (b) Grants may be made under the protected open space and
517 watershed land acquisition grant program established under subsection
518 (a) of this section or under the Charter Oak open space grant program
519 established under section 7-131t to match funds for the purchase of land
520 or permanent interests in land which purchase meets one of the
521 following criteria: (1) Protects land identified as being especially
522 valuable for recreation, forestry, fishing, conservation of wildlife or
523 natural resources; (2) protects land which includes or contributes to a
524 prime natural feature of the state's landscape, including, but not limited
525 to, a shoreline, a river, its tributaries and watershed, an aquifer,
526 mountainous territory, ridgelines, an inland or coastal wetland, a
527 significant littoral or estuarine or aquatic site or other important
528 geological feature; (3) protects habitat for native plant or animal species
529 listed as threatened or endangered or of special concern, as defined in
530 section 26-304; (4) protects a relatively undisturbed outstanding
531 example of a native ecological community which is now uncommon; (5)
532 enhances and conserves water quality of the state's lakes, rivers and
533 coastal water; (6) preserves local agricultural heritage; or (7) in the case

534 of grants to water companies, protects land which is eligible to be
535 classified as class I land or class II land after acquisition.

536 (c) Grants may be made under the protected open space and
537 watershed land acquisition grant program established under subsection
538 (a) of this section for restoration or protection of natural features or
539 habitats of, or for repurposing for urban agricultural use on, open space
540 already owned by a (1) distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-
541 9p, (2) targeted investment community, as defined in section 32-222, (3)
542 municipality, provided such open space is located in an environmental
543 justice community, as defined in section 22a-20a, or (4) nonprofit land
544 conservation organization, provided such open space is located in a
545 distressed municipality, targeted investment community or
546 environmental justice community. Such restoration or protection may
547 include, but need not be limited to, (A) wetland, wildlife or plant habitat
548 restoration or restoration of other sites to a more natural condition, (B)
549 urban agricultural use, or (C) replacement of vegetation. The total
550 amount of grants made pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed
551 twenty per cent of the total amount of grants made pursuant to the open
552 space and watershed land acquisition grant program in any fiscal year.

553 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no
554 grant may be made under the protected open space and watershed land
555 acquisition grant program established under subsection (a) of this
556 section or under the Charter Oak open space grant program established
557 under section 7-131t for: (A) Land to be used for commercial purposes
558 or for recreational purposes requiring intensive development,
559 including, but not limited to, golf courses, driving ranges, tennis courts,
560 ballfields, swimming pools and uses by motorized vehicles other than
561 vehicles needed by water companies to carry out their purposes,
562 provided trails or pathways for pedestrians, motorized wheelchairs or
563 nonmotorized vehicles shall not be considered intensive development;
564 (B) land with environmental contamination over a significant portion of
565 the property provided grants for land requiring remediation of
566 environmental contamination may be made if remediation will be

567 completed before acquisition of the land or any interest in the land and
568 an environmental assessment approved by the Commissioner of Energy
569 and Environmental Protection has been completed and no
570 environmental use restriction applies to the land; (C) land which has
571 already been committed for public use, except as provided in subsection
572 (c) of section 7-131g; (D) development costs, including, but not limited
573 to, construction of ballfields, tennis courts, parking lots or roadways; (E)
574 land to be acquired by eminent domain; or (F) reimbursement of in-kind
575 services or incidental expenses associated with the acquisition of land.
576 This subsection shall not prohibit the continuation of agricultural
577 activity, the activities of a water company for public water supply
578 purposes or the selling of timber incidental to management of the land
579 which management is in accordance with approved forest management
580 practices provided any proceeds of such timber sales shall be used for
581 management of the land. In the case of land acquired under this section
582 which is designated as a state park, any fees charged by the state for use
583 of such land shall be used by the state in accordance with the provisions
584 of title 23.

585 (2) Grants in a total amount not exceeding five per cent of the total
586 amount of grants made pursuant to the open space and watershed land
587 acquisition grant program in any fiscal year may be made to distressed
588 municipalities, as defined in section 32-9p, targeted investment
589 communities, as defined in section 32-222, nonprofit land conservation
590 organizations and municipalities, for the purpose of reimbursement for
591 in-kind services or incidental expenses associated with the acquisition
592 of land, including, but not limited to, survey fees, appraisal costs and
593 legal fees, provided such land is located in a distressed municipality,
594 targeted investment community or environmental justice community,
595 as defined in section 22a-20a.

596 (e) Any municipality or group of contiguous municipalities may
597 apply to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for
598 a grant-in-aid of a program established to preserve or restrict to
599 conservation or recreation purposes the use of open space land. Such

600 grant shall be used for the acquisition of land, or easements, interests or
601 rights therein, or for the development of such land, or easements,
602 interests or rights therein, for purposes set forth in this section, or both,
603 in accordance with a plan of development adopted by the municipal
604 planning commission of the municipality within which the land is
605 located. Any application for a grant-in-aid relating to land located
606 beyond the territorial limits of the applying municipality shall be subject
607 to approval of the legislative body of the municipality within whose
608 territorial limits the land is located. A municipality applying for aid
609 under this section, may designate its conservation commission as its
610 agent to make such application.

611 (f) At closing, a permanent conservation easement, as defined in
612 section 47-42, shall be executed for any property purchased with grant
613 funds, which conservation easement shall provide that the property
614 shall remain forever predominantly in its natural and open condition
615 for the specific conservation, open space or water supply purposes for
616 which it was acquired provided any improvements or changes to the
617 property shall be supportive of such condition or purposes. The
618 permanent conservation easement shall be in favor of the state acting
619 through the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
620 his designee, which may be a municipality or a land conservation
621 organization. In the case of land acquired for water supply protection, a
622 water company may hold an easement in conjunction with the state or
623 a nonprofit entity to protect the water supply. Such permanent
624 conservation easement shall also include a requirement that the
625 property be made available to the general public for appropriate
626 recreational purposes, the maintenance of which recreational access
627 shall be the responsibility of the grantee provided such access shall not
628 be required for land which will be classified as class I or class II land by
629 a water company if such access is inconsistent with the provision of pure
630 drinking water to the public. An exception to the provision of public
631 recreational access may be made at the discretion of the Commissioner
632 of Energy and Environmental Protection when provision for public
633 access would be unreasonably detrimental to the wildlife or plant

634 habitat or other natural features of the property or, for land where
 635 development rights have been purchased, would be disruptive of
 636 agricultural activity occurring on the land. Any instrument conveying
 637 an interest in land less than fee which interest is purchased under this
 638 section shall provide for the permanent preservation of the land and
 639 public access consistent with the land's use or protection and with any
 640 restrictions prescribed by the Department of Public Health in order to
 641 protect a public drinking water source.

642 Sec. 17. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Energy and
 643 Environmental Protection shall conduct a study on renter utilization of
 644 state energy efficiency and clean energy programs for which such
 645 department can obtain data, including, but not limited to, any barriers
 646 for renters to access such programs and any attendant
 647 recommendations for addressing any such barriers. Not later than July
 648 1, 2026, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing
 649 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 650 relating to the environment and energy and technology, in accordance
 651 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, that contains any such
 652 recommendations."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200a
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200b
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	32-7t(c)(3)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	31-3rr
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-283(b)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	8-240a(a) to (e)
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	7-131d
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	New section