



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 10429



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
REP. RITTER, 1st Dist.
REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.
SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.

REP. CANDELORA V., 86th Dist.
SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.
SEN. FAZIO, 36th Dist.
REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.
REP. MARRA T., 141st Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 4

File No. 325

Cal. No. 199

"AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY."

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

3 "Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in
4 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the
5 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state
6 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the
7 aggregate one hundred twenty-five million dollars for each of the fiscal
8 years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

9 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
10 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Office of
11 Policy and Management for the purpose of reducing the annual costs of

12 hardship protection measures and other hardship protections within the
13 systems benefits charge, as defined in section 16-245l of the general
14 statutes, to the average annual cost of such measures and protections in
15 the five years from 2016, to 2020, inclusive, preceding the COVID-19
16 pandemic.

17 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
18 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
19 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
20 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
21 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
22 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
23 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
24 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
25 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
26 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
27 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
28 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
29 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
30 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
31 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
32 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
33 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
34 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
35 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
36 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
37 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
38 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
39 such principal and interest as the same become due.

40 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in
41 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the
42 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state
43 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the
44 aggregate thirty million dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026,

45 and twenty million dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

46 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
47 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Office of
48 Policy and Management for the purpose of funding any electric vehicle
49 charging program implemented pursuant to section 16-244dd of the
50 general statutes, as amended by this act.

51 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
52 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
53 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
54 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
55 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
56 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
57 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
58 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
59 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
60 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
61 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
62 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
63 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
64 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
65 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
66 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
67 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
68 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
69 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
70 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
71 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
72 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
73 such principal and interest as the same become due.

74 Sec. 3. Section 16-244dd of the general statutes is repealed and the
75 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

76 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this title and title 16a, the

77 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may select the Connecticut Green
78 Bank, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the
79 electric distribution companies, as defined in section 16-1, as amended
80 by this act, a third party that the authority deems appropriate or any
81 combination thereof to implement the non-residential renewable energy
82 program established pursuant to section 16-244z, as amended by this
83 act, the residential renewable energy program established pursuant to
84 said section, the shared clean energy facility program established
85 pursuant to said section, the light-duty electric vehicle charging
86 program established by the authority in a proceeding or a medium-duty
87 to heavy-duty electric vehicle charging program established by the
88 authority in a proceeding.

89 (b) On and after January 1, 2026, the authority shall limit the expenses
90 for electric vehicle charging stations, as defined in section 16-19f, as
91 amended by this act, and customer wiring upgrades of any light-duty
92 electric vehicle charging program established by the authority in a
93 proceeding to twenty million dollars per year and further limit any
94 expenses for electric vehicle charging stations and customer wiring
95 upgrades incentivized as part of any residential single-family customer
96 program to residents who make less than or equal to three hundred per
97 cent of the federal poverty level or reside in any concentrated poverty
98 census tract, as defined in section 32-7x.

99 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2025, the Public
100 Utilities Regulatory Authority shall open an uncontested proceeding, or
101 amend the notice of proceeding in an active proceeding, to evaluate the
102 duration of winter shutoff moratoria and the criteria and standards
103 related to appropriate protections from service termination or
104 disconnection for medically protected customers of a regulated gas
105 company or electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1 of
106 the general statutes, as amended by this act. Such evaluation shall
107 include, but need not be limited to: (1) Reviewing the definitions of a
108 serious illness or life-threatening medical condition, including
109 evaluating, in consultation with the Probate Court Administrator,

110 whether and how mental health conditions should be included in such
111 definitions, and recommending revisions in consideration of ratepayer
112 costs and laws and regulations adopted in other similar jurisdictions; (2)
113 recommending revisions to the current protections for customers with a
114 serious illness or life-threatening medical condition that reflect
115 limitations on the duration of termination or disconnection protection;
116 (3) reviewing protections for customers with a serious illness or life-
117 threatening medical condition, and evaluating standards for
118 conditioning protections to such customers on their ability to pay; (4)
119 evaluating additional notice requirements prior to shutoff for customers
120 with a serious illness and life-threatening medical condition; (5)
121 evaluating the current procedures and practices and the relevant
122 processes for verification of hardship status and medical protections; (6)
123 evaluating the impact of limitations on medically protected customer
124 service terminations and disconnections on all other ratepayers; (7)
125 evaluating the requirement for a medical protection customer to enroll
126 in a payment plan; and (8) evaluating standards to ensure that electric
127 or gas companies have in good faith attempted to secure payment from
128 medically protected customers by reasonable means other than
129 termination, and that adequate notice is provided to the customer prior
130 to any termination.

131 (b) Not later than March 16, 2026, the chairperson of the Public
132 Utilities Regulatory Authority shall submit a report, in accordance with
133 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
134 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
135 matters relating to energy and technology, summarizing the results of
136 such proceeding and providing recommendations regarding service
137 termination policies and procedures evaluated in such proceeding.

138 Sec. 5. Section 16-262d of the general statutes is repealed and the
139 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

140 (a) No electric distribution, gas, telephone or water company, no
141 electric supplier and no municipal utility furnishing electric, gas or
142 water service may terminate such service to a residential dwelling on

143 account of nonpayment of a delinquent account unless such company,
144 electric supplier or municipal utility first gives notice of such
145 delinquency and impending termination by first class mail addressed to
146 the customer to which such service is billed, [at least] not less than
147 thirteen calendar days prior to the proposed termination, except that if
148 an electric distribution or gas company, electric supplier or municipal
149 utility furnishing electric or gas service has issued a notice under this
150 subsection but has not terminated service prior to issuing a new bill to
151 the customer, such company, electric supplier or municipal utility may
152 terminate such service only after mailing the customer an additional
153 notice of the impending termination, addressed to the customer to
154 which such service is billed either (1) by first class mail at least thirteen
155 calendar days prior to the proposed termination, or (2) by certified mail,
156 [at least] not less than seven calendar days prior to the proposed
157 termination. In the event that multiple dates of proposed termination
158 are provided to a customer, no such company, electric supplier or
159 municipal utility shall terminate service [prior to] before the latest of
160 such dates. For purposes of this subsection, the thirteen-day periods and
161 seven-day period shall commence on the date such notice is mailed. If
162 such company, electric supplier or municipal utility does not terminate
163 service within one hundred twenty days after mailing the initial notice
164 of termination, such company, electric supplier or municipal utility shall
165 give the customer a new notice [at least] not less than thirteen days prior
166 to termination. Every termination notice issued by a public service
167 company, electric supplier or municipal utility shall contain or be
168 accompanied by an explanation of the rights of the customer provided
169 in subsection (c) of this section.

170 (b) No such company, electric supplier or municipal utility shall
171 effect termination of service for nonpayment during such time as any
172 resident of a dwelling to which such service is furnished is seriously ill,
173 if the fact of such serious illness is certified to such company, electric
174 supplier or municipal utility by a registered physician, a physician
175 assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse within such period of
176 time after the mailing of a termination notice pursuant to subsection (a)

177 of this section as the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may by
178 regulation establish, provided the customer agrees to amortize the
179 unpaid balance of his account over a reasonable period of time and
180 keeps current his account for utility service as charges accrue in each
181 subsequent billing period.

182 (c) No such company, electric supplier or municipal utility shall effect
183 termination of service to a residential dwelling for nonpayment during
184 the pendency of any complaint, investigation, hearing or appeal,
185 initiated by a customer within such period of time after the mailing of a
186 termination notice pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as the Public
187 Utilities Regulatory Authority may by regulation establish; provided,
188 any telephone company during the pendency of any complaint,
189 investigation, hearing or appeal may terminate telephone service if the
190 amount of charges accruing and outstanding subsequent to the
191 initiation of any complaint, investigation, hearing or appeal exceeds on
192 a monthly basis the average monthly bill for the previous three months
193 or if the customer fails to keep current [his] such telephone account for
194 all undisputed charges or fails to comply with any amortization
195 agreement as hereafter provided.

196 (d) Any customer who has initiated a complaint or investigation
197 under subsection (c) of this section shall be given an opportunity for
198 review of such complaint or investigation by a review officer of the
199 company, electric supplier or municipal utility other than a member of
200 such company's, electric supplier's or municipal utility's credit
201 authority, provided the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may
202 waive this requirement for any company, electric supplier or municipal
203 utility employing fewer than twenty-five full-time employees, which
204 review shall include consideration of whether the customer should be
205 permitted to amortize the unpaid balance of his account over a
206 reasonable period of time. No termination shall be effected for any
207 customer complying with any such amortization agreement, provided
208 such customer also keeps current [his] such account for utility service as
209 charges accrue in each subsequent billing period.

210 (e) Any customer whose complaint or request for an investigation has
211 resulted in a determination by a company, electric supplier or municipal
212 utility which is adverse to [him] such customer may appeal such
213 determination to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or a hearing
214 officer appointed by the authority.

215 (f) If, following the receipt of a termination notice or the entering into
216 of an amortization agreement, the customer makes a payment or
217 payments amounting to twenty per cent of the balance due, the public
218 service company or electric supplier shall not terminate service without
219 giving notice to the customer, in accordance with the provisions of this
220 section, of the conditions the customer must meet to avoid termination,
221 but such subsequent notice shall not entitle such customer to further
222 investigation, review or appeal by the company, electric supplier,
223 municipal utility or authority.

224 (g) No electric distribution, gas or water company, gas registrant or
225 municipal utility furnishing electric, gas or water service shall submit to
226 a credit rating agency, as defined in section 36a-695, any information
227 about a residential customer's nonpayment for electric, gas or water
228 service unless the customer is more than one hundred twenty days
229 delinquent in paying for such service. In no event shall such a company,
230 gas registrant or municipal utility submit to a credit rating agency any
231 information about a residential customer's nonpayment for such service
232 if the customer has initiated a complaint, investigation, hearing or
233 appeal with regard to such service under subsection (c) of this section
234 that is pending before the authority. If such a company, gas registrant
235 or municipal utility intends to submit to a credit rating agency
236 information about a customer's nonpayment for service, it shall, at least
237 thirty days before submitting such information, send the customer by
238 first class mail notification that includes the statement, "AS
239 AUTHORIZED BY LAW, FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS, WE
240 SUPPLY PAYMENT INFORMATION TO CREDIT RATING
241 AGENCIES. IF YOUR ACCOUNT IS MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED
242 TWENTY DAYS DELINQUENT, THE DELINQUENCY REPORT

243 COULD HARM YOUR CREDIT RATING".

244 (h) No telephone company or certified telecommunications provider
245 shall submit to a credit rating agency, as defined in section 36a-695, any
246 information about a residential customer's nonpayment for telephone or
247 telecommunications service, unless the customer is more than sixty days
248 delinquent in paying for such service. In no event shall a telephone
249 company or certified telecommunications provider submit to a credit
250 rating agency any information about a residential customer's
251 nonpayment for such service if the customer has initiated a complaint,
252 investigation, hearing or appeal with regard to such service under
253 subsection (c) of this section that is pending before the authority. If a
254 telephone company or certified telecommunications provider intends to
255 submit to a credit rating agency information about a customer's
256 nonpayment for service, it shall, at least thirty days before submitting
257 such information, send the customer, by first class mail, notification that
258 includes the statement, "AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW, FOR
259 RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS, WE SUPPLY PAYMENT
260 INFORMATION TO CREDIT RATING OR DEBT COLLECTION
261 AGENCIES. IF YOUR ACCOUNT IS MORE THAN SIXTY DAYS
262 DELINQUENT, THE DELINQUENCY REPORT COULD HARM YOUR
263 CREDIT RATING".

264 Sec. 6. Section 2 of public act 24-31 is repealed and the following is
265 substituted in lieu thereof(*Effective from passage*):

266 The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall
267 conduct a study regarding the renewable energy tariff programs
268 established pursuant to section 16-244z of the general statutes, as
269 amended by [this act] public act 24-31. Such study shall include, but not
270 be limited to, an examination of (1) whether to extend such programs
271 beyond the procurement years authorized in said section; (2) potential
272 processes that can be adopted to avoid stranded projects; and (3)
273 potential successor programs. An examination conducted pursuant to
274 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this section shall include, but not be limited
275 to: (A) An examination of potential programs that do not incorporate

276 any megawatt cap; (B) consideration of different possible criteria and
277 procedures for choosing projects, such as choosing projects by lottery or
278 on a first-come, first-served basis; [and] (C) an identification of
279 alternative bidding frameworks, such as awarding solicitations based
280 on what projects can be deployed soonest; (D) a framework to
281 encourage the aggregation of distributed energy resources that can
282 respond and provide grid and retail market services; (E) an evaluation
283 of how nonparticipating electric customers may be impacted by
284 renewable energy tariff programs, and strategies for minimizing any
285 unintended duplication of incentives or subsidies between participating
286 and nonparticipating electric customers, including a fair and complete
287 evaluation of costs and benefits of the renewable energy tariff programs
288 and methods to maximize benefits to nonparticipating customers, such
289 as reducing electric system distribution congestion; and (F)
290 consideration of different compensation structures to encourage
291 deployment in areas of grid under-utilization. Not later than [January
292 15] March 1, 2026, the chairperson shall submit, in accordance with the
293 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the results of such
294 study, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee
295 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
296 energy and technology.

297 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any low-income rates
298 implemented by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority pursuant to
299 section 16-19 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 16-19e, 16-
300 19oo or 16-19zz of the general statutes in any rate case or other
301 proceeding initiated on or after October 1, 2025, or in a pending rate case
302 for which a final decision has not been issued prior to November 1, 2025,
303 shall include, but not be limited to, the following cost-containment
304 measures to protect ratepayers: (1) A monthly kilowatt hour usage cap
305 applied to the low-income rate for customers of an electric distribution
306 company, a monthly centum cubic feet usage cap applied to the low-
307 income rate for customers of a gas company and a gallon usage cap
308 applied to the low-income rate for customers of a water company; (2) a
309 budgetary target-triggering review by the authority if an electric

310 distribution company, gas company or water company's total cost to
311 fund the low-income rate exceeds a certain percentage of the electric
312 distribution company, gas company or water company's annual billed
313 total revenues; and (3) a recertification process to confirm income
314 eligibility for the program and appropriate tier placement at least once
315 every twelve months of program enrollment.

316 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than November 15,
317 2029, the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall
318 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
319 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
320 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
321 technology regarding the implementation of low-income rates pursuant
322 to sections 16-19 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 16-19e,
323 16-19oo and 16-19zz of the general statutes, during the period from
324 January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2028, inclusive. The report shall
325 include, but need not be limited to, a review of the low-income rate
326 program, including the effectiveness of the cost-containment measures,
327 the effectiveness of the low-income rate in reducing uncollectibles and
328 the effectiveness of the low-income rate in encouraging bill payment.

329 Sec. 9. Section 16-244z of the general statutes is repealed and the
330 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

331 (a) (1) (A) On or before September 1, 2018, the Public Utilities
332 Regulatory Authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish a
333 procurement plan for each electric distribution company pursuant to
334 this subsection and may give a preference to technologies
335 manufactured, researched or developed in the state, provided such
336 procurement plan is consistent with and contributes to the requirements
337 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with section 22a-
338 200a. Each electric distribution company shall develop such
339 procurement plan in consultation with the Department of Energy and
340 Environmental Protection and shall submit such procurement plan to
341 the authority not later than sixty days after the authority initiates the
342 proceeding pursuant to this subdivision, provided the department shall

343 submit the program requirements pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this
344 subdivision on or before July 1, 2019. The authority may require such
345 electric distribution companies to conduct separate solicitations
346 pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection for the resources in
347 subparagraphs (A), (B) and (C) of said subdivision, including separate
348 solicitations based upon the size of such resources to allow for a
349 diversity of selected projects.

350 (B) On or before September 1, 2018, the authority shall initiate a
351 proceeding to establish tariffs that provide for twenty-year terms of
352 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection for each electric
353 distribution company pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
354 subdivision (2) of this subsection. In such proceeding, the authority shall
355 establish the period of time that will be used for calculating the net
356 amount of energy produced by a facility and not consumed, provided
357 the authority shall assess whether to incorporate time-of-use rates or
358 other dynamic pricing and such period of time shall be either (i) in real
359 time, (ii) in one day, (iii) in any fraction of a day not to exceed one day,
360 or (iv) in any period of time greater than one day up to and including
361 one month. In such proceeding, the authority shall consider the findings
362 of the study of the value of distributed energy resources conducted
363 pursuant to section 16a-3o. The rate for such tariffs shall be established
364 by the solicitation pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

365 (C) On or before September 1, 2018, the Department of Energy and
366 Environmental Protection shall (i) initiate a proceeding to develop
367 program requirements and tariff proposals for shared clean energy
368 facilities eligible pursuant to subparagraph [(C)] (B) of subdivision (2)
369 of this subsection, including, but not limited to, the requirements in
370 subdivision (6) of this subsection, and (ii) establish either or both of the
371 following tariff proposals: (I) A tariff proposal that includes a price cap
372 on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis for any procurement for such
373 resources based on the procurement results of any other procurement
374 issued pursuant to this subsection, and (II) a tariff proposal that includes
375 a tariff rate for customers eligible under subparagraph [(C)] (B) of

subdivision (2) of this subsection based on energy policy goals identified by the department in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy pursuant to section 16a-3d. On or before July 1, 2019, the department shall submit any such program requirements and tariff proposals to the authority for review and approval. On or before January 1, 2020, the authority shall approve or modify such program requirements and tariff proposals submitted by the department. If the authority approves two tariff proposals pursuant to this subparagraph, the authority shall determine how much of the total compensation authorized for customers eligible under this subparagraph pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section shall be available under each tariff.

(2) Not less than once per year, each electric distribution company shall jointly or individually solicit and file with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for its approval one or more projects selected resulting from any procurement issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection that are consistent with the tariffs approved by the authority pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection and that are applicable to (A) [customers that own or develop new generation projects on a customer's own premises that are less than five megawatts in size, serve the distribution system of an electric distribution company, are constructed after the solicitation conducted pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection to which the customer is responding, and use a Class I renewable energy source that either (i) uses anaerobic digestion, or (ii) has emissions of no more than 0.07 pounds per megawatt-hour of nitrogen oxides, 0.10 pounds per megawatt-hour of carbon monoxide, 0.02 pounds per megawatt-hour of volatile organic compounds and one grain per one hundred standard cubic feet, (B)] customers that own or develop new generation projects on a customer's own premises that are less than five megawatts in size, serve the distribution system of an electric distribution company, are constructed after the solicitation conducted pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection to which the customer is responding, and use a Class I renewable energy source that emits no pollutants, and [(C)] (B) customers that own or develop new generation projects that are a shared

410 clean energy facility, consistent with the program requirements
411 developed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this
412 subsection. For purposes of this section, "shared clean energy facility"
413 means a Class I renewable energy source [, as defined in section 16-1,]
414 that (i) after January 1, 2026, emits no pollutants, (ii) is served by an
415 electric distribution company, [as defined in section 16-1,(ii)] (iii) has a
416 nameplate capacity rating of five megawatts or less, and [(iii)] (iv) has
417 at least two subscribers. Any project that is eligible pursuant to
418 subparagraph [(C)] (B) of this subdivision shall not be eligible pursuant
419 to subparagraph (A) [or (B)] of this subdivision.

420 (3) A customer that is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A) [or (B)]
421 of subdivision (2) of this subsection may elect in any such solicitation to
422 utilize either (A) a tariff for the purchase of all energy and renewable
423 energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, or (B) a tariff for
424 the purchase of any energy produced by a facility and not consumed in
425 the period of time established by the authority pursuant to
426 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection and all renewable
427 energy certificates generated by such facility on a cents-per-kilowatt-
428 hour basis, subject to any tariff terms, conditions or other stipulations of
429 the authority, including, but not limited to, stipulations regarding the
430 capacity rights of a given facility.

431 (4) Each electric distribution company shall jointly or individually
432 conduct an annual solicitation or solicitations, as determined by the
433 authority, for the purchase of energy and renewable energy certificates
434 produced by eligible generation projects under this subsection over the
435 duration of each applicable tariff. Generation projects eligible pursuant
436 to [subparagraphs] subparagraph (A) [and (B)] of subdivision (2) of this
437 subsection shall be sized so as not to exceed the load at the customer's
438 individual electric meter or a set of electric meters, when such meters
439 are combined for billing purposes, as determined by the authority,
440 unless such customer is a state, municipal or agricultural customer, then
441 such generation project shall be sized so as not to exceed the load at such
442 customer's individual electric meter or a set of electric meters at the

443 same customer premises, when such meters are combined for billing
444 purposes, and the load of up to five state, municipal or agricultural
445 beneficial accounts, as defined in section 16-244u, identified by such
446 state, municipal or agricultural customer, and such state, municipal or
447 agricultural customer may include the load of up to five additional
448 nonstate or municipal beneficial accounts, as defined in section 16-244u,
449 when sizing such generation project, provided such accounts are critical
450 facilities, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-
451 243y, and are connected to a microgrid.

452 (5) The maximum selected purchase price of energy and renewable
453 energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis in any given
454 solicitation shall not exceed such maximum selected purchase price for
455 the same resources in the prior year's solicitation, unless the authority
456 makes a determination that there are changed circumstances in any
457 given year. For the first year solicitation issued pursuant to this
458 subsection, the authority shall establish a cap for the selected purchase
459 price for energy and renewable energy certificates on a cents-per-
460 kilowatt-hour basis for any resources authorized under this subsection.

461 (6) The program requirements for shared clean energy facilities
462 developed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this
463 subsection shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

464 (A) The department shall allow cost-effective projects of various
465 nameplate capacities that may allow for the construction of multiple
466 projects in the service area of each electric distribution company that
467 operates within the state.

468 (B) The department shall determine the billing credit for any
469 subscriber of a shared clean energy facility that may be issued through
470 the electric distribution companies' monthly billing systems, and
471 establish consumer protections for subscribers and potential subscribers
472 of such a facility, including, but not limited to, disclosures to be made
473 when selling or reselling a subscription.

474 (C) Such program shall utilize one or more tariff mechanisms with
475 the electric distribution companies for a term not to exceed twenty years,
476 subject to approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, to pay
477 for the purchase of any energy products and renewable energy
478 certificates produced by any eligible shared clean energy facility, or to
479 deliver any billing credit of any such facility.

480 (D) The department shall limit subscribers to (i) low-income
481 customers, (ii) moderate-income customers, (iii) small business
482 customers, (iv) state or municipal customers, (v) commercial customers,
483 and (vi) residential customers who can demonstrate, pursuant to criteria
484 determined by the department in the program requirements
485 recommended by the department and approved by the authority, that
486 they are unable to utilize the tariffs offered pursuant to subsection (b) of
487 this section.

488 (E) The department shall require that (i) not less than twenty per cent
489 of the total capacity of each shared clean energy facility is sold, given or
490 provided to low-income customers, and (ii) not less than sixty per cent
491 of the total capacity of each shared clean energy facility is sold, given or
492 provided to low-income customers, moderate-income customers or
493 low-income service organizations. The authority may modify such
494 shared clean energy facility capacity requirements for the limited
495 purpose of aligning the allocation of shared clean energy facility
496 capacity with the requirements of any federal acts providing renewable
497 energy incentives.

498 (F) The department may allow preferences to projects that serve low-
499 income customers and shared clean energy facilities that benefit
500 customers who reside in environmental justice communities.

501 (G) The department may create incentives or other financing
502 mechanisms to encourage participation by low-income customers.

503 (H) The department may require that not more than forty per cent of
504 the total capacity of each shared clean energy facility is sold to

505 commercial customers.

506 (7) For purposes of this subsection:

507 (A) "Environmental justice community" has the same meaning as
508 provided in subsection (a) of section 22a-20a;

509 (B) "Low-income customer" means an in-state retail end user of an
510 electric distribution company (i) whose income does not exceed sixty
511 per cent of the state median income, adjusted for family size, or (ii) that
512 is an affordable housing facility. The authority may modify such
513 definition for the limited purpose of aligning such definition with the
514 requirements of any federal acts providing renewable energy incentives;

515 (C) "Low-income service organization" means a for-profit or
516 nonprofit organization that provides service or assistance to low-income
517 individuals; and

518 (D) "Moderate-income customer" means an in-state retail end user of
519 an electric distribution company whose income is between sixty per cent
520 and one hundred per cent of the state median income, adjusted for
521 family size. The authority may modify such definition for the limited
522 purpose of aligning such definition with the requirements of any federal
523 acts providing renewable energy incentives.

524 (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2020, the authority shall initiate a
525 proceeding to establish (A) tariffs for each electric distribution company
526 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, (B) a rate for such tariffs,
527 which may be based upon the results of one or more competitive
528 solicitations issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or on the
529 average cost of installing the generation project and a reasonable rate of
530 return that is just, reasonable and adequate, as determined by the
531 authority, and shall be guided by the Comprehensive Energy Strategy
532 prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d, and (C) the period of time that will
533 be used for calculating the net amount of energy produced by a facility
534 and not consumed, provided the authority shall assess whether to
535 incorporate time-of-use rates or other dynamic pricing and such period

536 of time shall be either (i) in real time, (ii) in one day, (iii) in any fraction
537 of a day not to exceed one day, or (iv) in any period of time greater than
538 one day up to and including one month. In such proceeding, the
539 authority shall consider the findings of the study of the value of
540 distributed energy resources conducted pursuant to section 16a-3o. The
541 authority shall issue a final decision in such proceeding on or before July
542 1, 2021. The authority may modify such rate for new customers under
543 this subsection based on changed circumstances and may establish an
544 interim tariff rate prior to the expiration of the residential solar
545 investment program pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-245ff as an
546 alternative to such program, provided any residential customer
547 utilizing a tariff pursuant to this subsection at such customer's electric
548 meter shall not be eligible for any incentives offered pursuant to section
549 16-245ff at the same such electric meter and any residential customer
550 utilizing any incentives offered pursuant to section 16-245ff at such
551 customer's electric meter shall not be eligible for a tariff pursuant to this
552 subsection at the same such electric meter. For rates offered pursuant to
553 subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, on and
554 after January 1, 2026, the authority shall establish a nonbypassable
555 charge as part of the netting tariff offering at a rate equal to at least three
556 and one-quarter cents and shall adjust the compensation offered
557 pursuant to the buy-all tariff such that the rates offered pursuant to both
558 tariff offerings are substantially similar.

559 (2) On and after January 1, 2022, each electric distribution company
560 shall offer the following options to residential customers for the
561 purchase of products generated from a Class I renewable energy source
562 that emits no pollutants and that is located on a customer's own
563 premises and has a nameplate capacity rating of twenty-five kilowatts
564 or less for a term not to exceed twenty years: (A) A tariff for the purchase
565 of all energy and renewable energy certificates on a cents-per-kilowatt-
566 hour basis; and (B) a tariff for the purchase of any energy produced and
567 not consumed in the period of time established by the authority
568 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection and
569 all renewable energy certificates generated by such facility on a cents-

570 per-kilowatt-hour basis, subject to any tariff terms, conditions or other
571 stipulations of the authority, including, but not limited to, stipulations
572 regarding the capacity rights of a given facility. A residential customer
573 shall select either option authorized pursuant to subparagraph (A) or
574 (B) of this subdivision, consistent with the requirements of this section.
575 Such generation projects shall be sized so as not to exceed the load at the
576 customer's individual electric meter or, in the case of a multifamily
577 dwelling that qualifies under this subsection, the load of the premises,
578 from the electric distribution company providing service to such
579 customer, pursuant to any rules established by the authority and as
580 determined by such electric distribution company. For purposes of this
581 section, "residential customer" means a customer of a single-family
582 dwelling, a multifamily dwelling consisting of two to four units, or a
583 multifamily dwelling consisting of five or more units, provided in the
584 case of a multifamily dwelling consisting of five or more units, (i) not
585 less than sixty per cent of the units of the multifamily dwelling are
586 occupied by persons and families with income that is not more than
587 sixty per cent of the area median income for the municipality in which
588 it is located, as determined by the United States Department of Housing
589 and Urban Development, or (ii) such multifamily dwelling is
590 determined to be affordable housing by the Public Utilities Regulatory
591 Authority in consultation with the Department of Energy and
592 Environmental Protection, Department of Housing, Connecticut Green
593 Bank, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and United States
594 Department of Housing and Urban Development. In the case of a
595 multifamily dwelling consisting of five or more units, a generation
596 project shall only qualify under this subsection if: (I) Each of the
597 dwelling units receives an appropriate share of the benefits from the
598 generation project, and (II) no greater than an appropriate share of the
599 benefits from the generation project is used to offset common area
600 usage. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate an
601 uncontested proceeding to implement the distribution of the benefits
602 from the generation project pursuant to this section.

603 (c) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,

604 for procurement and tariff years commencing on and after January 1,
605 2025, [the total megawatts available to customers eligible under
606 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
607 not exceed ten megawatts per year,] the total megawatts available to
608 customers eligible under subparagraph [(B)] (A) of subdivision (2) of
609 subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed one hundred megawatts
610 per year and the total megawatts available to customers eligible under
611 subparagraph [(C)] (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section
612 shall not exceed fifty megawatts per year. The authority shall monitor
613 the competitiveness of any procurements authorized pursuant to
614 subsection (a) of this section and may adjust the annual purchase
615 amount established in this subsection or other procurement parameters
616 to maintain competitiveness. Any megawatts not allocated in any given
617 year shall roll into the next year's available megawatts. The obligation
618 to purchase energy and renewable energy certificates shall be
619 apportioned as determined by the authority.

620 (B) For procurement and tariff years commencing on and after
621 January 1, 2025, the authority may exceed the limits on total available
622 megawatts described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision for any
623 procurement and tariff program authorized pursuant to subsection (a)
624 of this section in any such year, if, during the period commencing on
625 January first and ending on the date that the last project is selected
626 pursuant to the usual procurement process for such program, as
627 determined by the authority, the aggregate dollar amount of
628 procurements of energy and renewable energy credits over the tariff
629 term for all selected projects does not exceed the aggregate dollar
630 amount of procurements of energy and renewable energy credits over
631 the tariff term for all projects selected in such program during the
632 calendar year 2024. The authority shall determine the manner of
633 exceeding such limits.

634 (C) (i) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
635 tariffs developed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of
636 subsection (a) of this section for six years, inclusive of previous years of

637 such procurement and tariff program. The sixth and final year of such
638 procurement and tariff program shall be the calendar year 2027.

639 (ii) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
640 tariffs developed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of
641 subsection (a) of this section for eight years, inclusive of previous years
642 of such procurement and tariff program. The eighth and final year of
643 such procurement and tariff program shall be the calendar year 2027.

644 (D) The electric distribution companies shall offer any tariffs
645 developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for six years. At the
646 end of the tariff term pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
647 subsection (b) of this section, residential customers that elected the
648 option pursuant to said subparagraph shall be credited all cents-per-
649 kilowatt-hour charges pursuant to the tariff rate for such customer for
650 energy produced by the Class I renewable energy source against any
651 energy that is consumed in real time by such residential customer.

652 (E) The authority shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on
653 a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis at the expiration of any tariff terms
654 authorized pursuant to this section.

655 (2) The department, in consultation with the authority, shall assess
656 the tariff offerings pursuant to this section and determine if such
657 offerings are competitive compared to the cost of the technologies and
658 shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, the results of such
659 determination to the General Assembly not later than January 15, 2027.

660 (3) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
661 shall examine how to incorporate the following energy system benefits
662 into the rate established for any such tariff: (A) Energy storage systems
663 that provide electric distribution benefits, (B) location of a facility on the
664 distribution system, (C) time-of-use rates or other dynamic pricing, and
665 (D) other energy policy benefits identified in the Comprehensive Energy
666 Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d.

667 (d) In accordance with subsection [(h)] (g) of section 16-245a, as

668 amended by this act, the authority shall [determine which of the
669 following two options is in the best interest of ratepayers and shall direct
670 each electric distribution company to either (1) retire the renewable
671 energy certificates it purchases pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of
672 this section on behalf of all ratepayers to satisfy the obligations of all
673 electric suppliers and electric distribution companies providing
674 standard service or supplier of last resort service pursuant to section 16-
675 245a, or (2) sell such renewable energy certificates into the New England
676 Power Pool Generation information system renewable energy credit
677 market. The authority shall establish procedures for the retirement of
678 such renewable energy certificates. Any net revenues from the sale of
679 products purchased in accordance with this section shall be credited to
680 customers through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
681 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company]
682 follow the procedures established pursuant to subsection (g) of section
683 16-245a, as amended by this act, for certificates issued by the New
684 England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class I
685 renewable energy source purchased by an electric distribution company
686 pursuant to this section.

687 (e) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric
688 distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a
689 timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
690 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any
691 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
692 any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
693 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
694 such electric distribution company.

695 (f) Notwithstanding the size-to-load provisions of subdivision (4) of
696 subsection (a) of this section, the entire rooftop space of a customer's
697 own premises developed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision
698 (1) of subsection (a) of this section and owned by a commercial or
699 industrial customer may be used for purposes of electricity generation
700 and participation in the solicitation conducted by each electric

701 distribution company pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of
702 this section.

703 (g) State, municipal and agricultural customers shall be exempt from
704 the requirement that generation projects owned or developed pursuant
705 to subparagraph (A) [or (B)] of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this
706 section be located on a customer's own premises.

707 (h) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the authority shall
708 incorporate the program established pursuant to section 16-244ee into
709 the programs authorized pursuant to this section.

710 Sec. 10. Section 16-245e of the general statutes is repealed and the
711 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

712 (a) As used in this section, sections 16-245f to 16-245k, inclusive, as
713 amended by this act, and section 16-245m, as amended by this act:

714 (1) "Rate reduction bonds" means bonds, notes, certificates of
715 participation or beneficial interest, or other [evidences] evidence of
716 indebtedness or ownership, issued pursuant to an executed indenture
717 or other agreement of a financing entity, in accordance with this section
718 and sections 16-245f to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, the
719 proceeds of which are used, directly or indirectly, to provide, recover,
720 finance, or refinance stranded costs, financed utility services or
721 economic recovery transfer, or to sustain funding of conservation and
722 load management and renewable energy investment programs by
723 substituting for disbursements to the General Fund from the
724 Conservation and Load Management Plan established by section 16-
725 245m, as amended by this act, and from the Clean Energy Fund
726 established by section 16-245n, and which, directly or indirectly, are
727 secured by, evidence ownership interests in, or are payable from,
728 transition property;

729 (2) "Competitive transition assessment" means those nonbypassable
730 rates and other charges, that are authorized by the authority (A) in a
731 financing order in respect to the economic recovery transfer, or in a

732 financing order, to sustain funding of conservation and load
733 management and renewable energy investment programs by
734 substituting disbursements to the General Fund from proceeds of rate
735 reduction bonds for such disbursements from the Conservation and
736 Load Management Plan established by section 16-245m, as amended by
737 this act, and from the Clean Energy Fund established by section 16-245n,
738 or to recover those stranded costs or financed utility services that are
739 eligible to be funded with the proceeds of rate reduction bonds pursuant
740 to section 16-245f, as amended by this act, and the costs of providing,
741 recovering, financing, or refinancing the economic recovery transfer or
742 such substitution of disbursements to the General Fund or such
743 stranded costs or financed utility services through a plan approved by
744 the authority in the financing order, including the costs of issuing,
745 servicing, and retiring rate reduction bonds, (B) to recover those
746 stranded costs or financed utility services determined under this section
747 but not eligible to be funded with the proceeds of rate reduction bonds
748 pursuant to section 16-245f, as amended by this act, or (C) to recover
749 costs determined under subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 16-
750 244g. If requested by the electric distribution company, the authority
751 shall include in the competitive transition assessment nonbypassable
752 rates and other charges to recover federal and state taxes whose
753 recovery period is modified by the transactions contemplated in this
754 section and sections 16-245f to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this
755 act;

756 (3) "Customer" means any individual, business, firm, corporation,
757 association, tax-exempt organization, joint stock association, trust,
758 partnership, limited liability company, the United States or its agencies,
759 this state, any political subdivision thereof or state agency that
760 purchases electric generation or distribution services as a retail end user
761 in the state from any electric supplier or electric distribution company;

762 (4) "Finance authority" means the state, acting through the office of
763 the State Treasurer;

764 (5) "Authority" means the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;

765 [(5)] (6) "Net proceeds" means the book income from the sale or
766 divestiture of assets, consisting of sales price less reasonable expenses of
767 sale, related income and other;

768 [(6)] (7) "Stranded costs" means that portion of generation assets,
769 generation-related regulatory assets or long-term contract costs
770 determined by the authority in accordance with the provisions of
771 subsections (e), (f), (g) and (h) of this section;

772 [(7)] (8) "Generation assets" means the total construction and other
773 capital asset costs of generation facilities approved for inclusion in rates
774 before July 1, 1997, but does not include any costs relating to the
775 decommissioning of any such facility or any costs which the authority
776 found during a proceeding initiated before July 1, 1998, were incurred
777 because of imprudent management;

778 [(8)] (9) "Generation-related regulatory assets" means generation-
779 related costs authorized or mandated before July 1, 1998, by the Public
780 Utilities Regulatory Authority, approved for inclusion in the rates, and
781 include, but are not limited to, costs incurred for deferred taxes,
782 conservation programs, environmental protection programs, public
783 policy costs and research and development costs, net of any applicable
784 credits payable to customers, but does not include any costs which the
785 authority found during a proceeding initiated before July 1, 1998, were
786 incurred because of imprudent management;

787 [(9)] (10) "Long-term contract costs" mean the above-market portion
788 of the costs of contractual obligations approved for inclusion in the rates
789 that were entered into before January 1, 2000, arising from independent
790 power producer contracts required by law or purchased power
791 contracts approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

792 [(10)] (11) "Financing entity" means the finance authority or any
793 special purpose trust or other entity that is authorized by the finance
794 authority, or, in the case of rate reduction bonds to recover financed
795 utility services, authorized by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

796 pursuant to a financing order, to issue rate reduction bonds or acquire
797 transition property pursuant to such terms and conditions as the finance
798 authority, or said authority, if applicable, may specify, or both;

799 [(11)] (12) "Financing order" means an order of the authority adopted
800 in accordance with this section and sections 16-245f to 16-245k,
801 inclusive, as amended by this act;

802 [(12)] (13) "Transition property" means the irrevocable property right
803 created pursuant to this section and sections 16-245f to 16-245k,
804 inclusive, as amended by this act, in respect to the economic recovery
805 transfer or in respect of disbursements to the General Fund to sustain
806 funding of conservation and load management and renewable energy
807 investment programs or those stranded costs or financed utility services
808 that are eligible to be funded with the proceeds of rate reduction bonds
809 pursuant to section 16-245f, as amended by this act, including, without
810 limitation, the right, title, and interest of an electric distribution
811 company or its transferee or the financing entity (A) in and to the rates
812 and charges established pursuant to a financing order, as adjusted from
813 time to time in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
814 section 16-245i, as amended by this act, and the financing order, (B) to
815 be paid the amount that is determined in a financing order to be the
816 amount that the electric distribution company or its transferee or the
817 financing entity is lawfully entitled to receive pursuant to the provisions
818 of this section and sections 16-245f to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by
819 this act, and the proceeds thereof, and in and to all revenues, collections,
820 claims, payments, money, or proceeds of or arising from the rates and
821 charges or constituting the competitive transition assessment that is the
822 subject of a financing order including those nonbypassable rates and
823 other charges referred to in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (C) in
824 and to all rights to obtain adjustments to the rates and charges pursuant
825 to the terms of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 16-245i, as
826 amended by this act, and the financing order. "Transition property" shall
827 constitute a current and irrevocable property right notwithstanding the
828 fact that the value of the property right will depend on consumers using

829 electricity or, in those instances where consumers are customers of a
830 particular electric distribution company, the electric distribution
831 company performing certain services;

832 [(13)] (14) "State rate reduction bonds" means the rate reduction
833 bonds issued on June 23, 2004, by the state to sustain funding of
834 conservation and load management and renewable energy investment
835 programs by substituting for disbursements to the General Fund from
836 the Conservation and Load Management Plan, established by section
837 16-245m, as amended by this act, and from the Clean Energy Fund,
838 established by section 16-245n. The state rate reduction bonds for the
839 purposes of section 4-30a shall be deemed to be outstanding
840 indebtedness of the state;

841 [(14)] (15) "Operating expenses" means, with respect to state rate
842 reduction bonds or economic recovery revenue bonds, (A) all expenses,
843 costs and liabilities of the state or the trustee incurred in connection with
844 the administration or payment of the state rate reduction bonds or
845 economic recovery revenue bonds, or in discharge of its obligations and
846 duties under the state rate reduction bonds or economic recovery
847 revenue bonds, or bond documents, expenses and other costs and
848 expenses arising in connection with the state rate reduction bonds or
849 economic recovery revenue bonds, or pursuant to the financing order
850 providing for the issuance of such bonds including any arbitrage rebate
851 and penalties payable under the code in connection with such bonds,
852 and (B) all fees and expenses payable or disbursable to the servicers or
853 others under the bond documents;

854 [(15)] (16) "Bond documents" means, with respect to state rate
855 reduction bonds or economic recovery revenue bonds, the following
856 documents: The servicing agreements, the tax compliance agreement
857 and certificate, and the continuing disclosure agreement and indenture
858 entered into in connection with the state rate reduction bonds or the
859 economic recovery revenue bonds;

860 [(16)] (17) "Indenture" means the indenture executed in connection

861 with the state rate reduction bonds or the economic recovery revenue
862 bonds, or, with respect to state rate reduction bonds, the RRB Indenture,
863 dated as of June 23, 2004, by and between the state and the trustee, as
864 amended from time to time;

865 [(17)] (18) "Trustee" means, with respect to state rate reduction bonds,
866 the trustee appointed under the indenture;

867 [(18)] (19) "Economic recovery transfer" means the disbursement to
868 the General Fund of nine hundred fifty-six million dollars from
869 proceeds of the issuance of the economic recovery revenue bonds; [and]

870 [(19)] (20) "Economic recovery revenue bonds" means rate reduction
871 bonds issued to fund the economic recovery transfer, the costs of
872 issuance, credit enhancements, operating expenses and such other costs
873 as the finance authority deems necessary or advisable, and which shall
874 be payable from competitive transition assessment charges that replace
875 the competitive transition assessment charges funding stranded costs;

876 (21) "Financed utility services" means costs determined by the Public
877 Utilities Regulatory Authority consistent with the principles set forth in
878 sections 16-11, 16-19, as amended by this act, and 16-19e that (A) have
879 been prudently and efficiently incurred between the period of January
880 1, 2018, to January 1, 2025, by an electric distribution company to
881 prepare for and restore power to customers following storms, (B) have
882 been or are reasonably expected to be prudently and efficiently incurred
883 after January 1, 2025, by an electric distribution company for any
884 accelerated initial procurement, installation and operational
885 deployment of advanced metering infrastructure, including capital
886 expenses and one-time non-capital operating expenses to implement
887 and promote customer adoption of advanced metering infrastructure,
888 including information and education for customers or licenses, fees,
889 training and other necessary costs, to replace existing traditional
890 noninterval metering infrastructure utilized by customers of such
891 company, including any reasonable fees, expenses and transaction costs
892 incurred in connection with the issuance, servicing, retirement or

893 refinancing of rate reduction bonds, (C) the unrecovered balance of
894 legacy infrastructure, including stranded costs, being replaced in
895 connection with the deployment of advanced metering infrastructure,
896 and (D) any reasonable fees, expenses and transaction costs incurred in
897 connection with the issuance, servicing, retirement or refinancing of rate
898 reduction bonds issued to finance such costs; and

899 (22) "Advanced metering infrastructure" means an integrated system
900 of metering equipment, two-way communications networks and
901 information management systems, including billing and customer
902 information systems, used by an electric distribution company to collect
903 and transmit interval or real-time data concerning a customer's energy
904 consumption.

905 (b) The authority shall, in accordance with the provisions of this
906 section, identify and calculate, upon application by an electric
907 distribution company, those stranded costs or financed utility services
908 that may be collected through the competitive transition assessment
909 which shall be calculated and collected in accordance with the
910 provisions of section 16-245g, as amended by this act. No electric
911 distribution company shall be eligible to claim stranded costs unless a
912 public auction has been held to divest itself of all nonnuclear generation
913 assets or the electric distribution company has sold its nonnuclear
914 generation assets in accordance with section 16-43.

915 (c) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 16-
916 244g, any electric distribution company seeking to claim stranded costs
917 shall, in accordance with this subsection, mitigate such costs to the
918 fullest extent possible. Prior to the approval by the authority of any
919 stranded costs, the electric distribution company shall show to the
920 satisfaction of the authority that the electric distribution company has
921 taken all reasonable steps to mitigate to the maximum extent possible
922 the total amount of stranded costs that it seeks to claim and to minimize
923 the cost to be recovered from customers. Mitigation shall include: (A)
924 Except to the extent provided in collective bargaining agreements or
925 agreements to purchase generation assets entered into prior to July 1,

1998, the obtaining of written commitments from purchasers of generation facilities divested pursuant to section 16-244g, that the purchasers will offer employment to persons who were employed in nonmanagerial positions by a divested generation facility at any time during the three-month period prior to the divestiture, at levels of wages and overall compensation not lower than the employees' lowest level during the six-month period prior to the date the contract to divest the asset was entered into; (B) good faith efforts to negotiate the buyout, buydown or renegotiation of independent power producer contracts and purchased power contracts approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, provided the fixed present value of any contract to which a political subdivision of the state is a party shall be calculated using the political subdivision's tax-exempt borrowing rate as the discount rate; and (C) the reasonable costs of the consultants appointed to conduct the auctions of generation assets pursuant to section 16-244g. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, reallocation of depreciation reserves to existing generation assets to the extent consistent with generally accepted accounting principles; reduction of book assets by application of net proceeds of any sale of existing assets; maximization of market revenues from existing generation assets; efforts to maximize current and future operating efficiency, including appropriate and timely maintenance, trouble shooting, aggressive identification and correction of potential problem areas; voluntary write-offs of above-market generation assets; the decision to retire uneconomical generation assets and efforts to divest generating sites at market prices reflective of best use of sites. Mitigation shall not include any expenditures to restart a nuclear generation asset that was not operating for reasons other than scheduled maintenance or refueling at the time such expenditure was made. Any mitigation efforts and associated costs shall be subject to approval by the authority.

(2) The authority shall allow the cost of such mitigation efforts to be included in the calculation of stranded costs to the extent that such mitigation costs are reasonable relative to the amount of the reduction in stranded costs resulting from the mitigation.

960 (d) An electric distribution company shall submit to the authority an
961 application for recovery of that portion of generation-related regulatory
962 assets, long-term contract costs, generation assets and mitigation costs
963 which are determined by the authority in accordance with subsections
964 (c), (e), (f) and (g) of this section and subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of
965 section 16-244g. The application shall include a description of mitigation
966 efforts and a request for recovery through the competitive transition
967 assessment and may include a request for a financing order. The
968 authority shall hold a hearing for each electric distribution company and
969 issue a finding of the calculation of stranded costs in a time frame that
970 allows for collection of the competitive transition assessment to begin
971 on January 1, 2000. Any hearing shall be conducted as a contested case
972 in accordance with chapter 54.

973 (e) The authority shall calculate the stranded costs for generation-
974 related regulatory assets to be their book value as of January 1, 2000. In
975 calculating the value of generation-related regulatory assets that are
976 being provided in a lump sum as the result of a funding with the
977 proceeds of rate reduction bonds, the authority shall adjust the value of
978 each such asset to reflect the time value of such lump sum, if any.

979 (f) (1) The authority shall calculate the stranded costs for long-term
980 contract costs that have been reduced to a fixed present value through
981 the buyout, buydown, or renegotiation of independent power producer
982 contracts and purchased power contracts approved by the Federal
983 Energy Regulatory Commission as such present value. In making such
984 calculation, the authority shall net purchased power contracts approved
985 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that are below market
986 value against any such contracts that are above-market value.

987 (2) The authority shall calculate the stranded costs for any portion of
988 a long-term contract cost that has not been reduced to a fixed present
989 value by comparing the contract price to the market price at least
990 annually. In making such calculation, the authority shall net purchased
991 power contracts approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory
992 Commission that are below market value against any such contracts that

993 are above-market value. The costs described in this subdivision shall be
994 included in the competitive transition assessment pursuant to section
995 16-245g, as amended by this act, but shall not be included in any funding
996 with the proceeds of rate reduction bonds.

997 (g) The authority shall calculate the stranded cost for each generation
998 asset to be the difference between its book value and the market value
999 of a prudently and efficiently managed nonnuclear generating facility
1000 of comparable size, age and technical characteristics in a competitive
1001 market. In determining the market value of any such asset, the authority
1002 may consider (A) the dollars per kilowatt received from the sale of
1003 similar generation facilities, if any, (B) income capitalization based on
1004 the operating history and capacity of the facility, the market rates for
1005 power, and any existing long-term contracts for the sale of power or
1006 capacity, (C) independent market appraisals, or (D) other relevant
1007 factors. The authority shall calculate the stranded costs for generation
1008 assets at least every three years. The costs described in this subsection
1009 shall be included in the competitive transition assessment pursuant to
1010 section 16-245g, as amended by this act, but shall not be included in any
1011 funding with the proceeds of rate reduction bonds.

1012 (h) (1) On or before January 1, 2004, an electric distribution company
1013 may submit to the authority an application for recovery of that portion
1014 of nuclear generation assets which is determined by the authority in
1015 accordance with this subsection, which application shall include a
1016 request for recovery through the competitive transition assessment. The
1017 authority shall hold a hearing for each electric distribution company and
1018 issue a finding of the calculation of such nuclear generation assets in
1019 accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Any hearing shall be
1020 conducted as a contested case proceeding in accordance with chapter
1021 54. The costs described in this subsection shall be included in the
1022 competitive transition assessment pursuant to section 16-245g, as
1023 amended by this act, but shall not be included in any funding with
1024 proceeds of rate reduction bonds.

1025 (2) The authority shall calculate the stranded costs for each nuclear

1026 generation asset that was divested at a price less than book value as
1027 described in subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of section 16-244g as the
1028 difference between the book value of this asset and the final bid price of
1029 the asset. The authority's calculation of stranded costs pursuant to this
1030 subdivision shall be final and shall not be subject to further adjustment
1031 by the authority.

1032 (3) The authority shall calculate the stranded costs for each
1033 nondivested nuclear generation asset described in subdivision (1) of
1034 subsection (d) of section 16-244g to be the difference between its book
1035 value and the market value of a prudently and efficiently managed
1036 nuclear generating facility of comparable size, age and technical
1037 characteristics in a competitive market. In determining the market value
1038 of any such asset, the authority may consider (A) the dollars per kilowatt
1039 received from the sale of similar generation facilities, if any, (B) income
1040 capitalization based on the operating history and capacity of the facility,
1041 the market rates for power, and any existing long-term contracts for the
1042 sale of power or capacity, (C) the provision for decommissioning and
1043 related costs to be paid from the systems benefits charge provided in
1044 section 16-245l, (D) independent market appraisals, or (E) other relevant
1045 factors. At least every four years after the date when the authority issues
1046 an initial finding of the calculation of the stranded costs for such
1047 nondivested nuclear generation assets as provided in this subdivision
1048 until the earlier of (i) the expiration of the collection of the competitive
1049 transition assessment, or (ii) the date when such an asset is divested, the
1050 authority shall hold a hearing and issue a finding to adjust the stranded
1051 cost calculation of each such asset and to adjust the competitive
1052 transition assessment accordingly to true up the stranded cost recovery
1053 for the difference between the market value projected in such initial
1054 finding and the actual market value of a prudently and efficiently
1055 managed nuclear generating facility of comparable size, age and
1056 technical characteristics during the time period between the initial
1057 finding and the adjustment date, provided the second and subsequent
1058 adjustments shall reflect the difference during the time period since the
1059 most recent true-up. The authority shall calculate the value of each such

1060 asset in accordance with the methodology provided in this subdivision.
1061 Any hearing shall be conducted as a contested case in accordance with
1062 chapter 54.

1063 (4) After the authority has calculated the total value of stranded costs
1064 for all nuclear generation assets, the authority shall (A) reduce such
1065 amount by the net proceeds that are above book value realized by an
1066 electric distribution company from the sale of nonnuclear generation
1067 assets, (B) reduce such valuation to reflect the total net proceeds that are
1068 above book value realized by an electric distribution company from the
1069 sale of any nuclear generation assets pursuant to subsection (c) of
1070 section 16-244g, and (C) reduce such amount by the net proceeds that
1071 are above book value received by an electric distribution company for
1072 the sale or lease of any real property after July 1, 1998.

1073 (i) If any net proceeds described in subdivision (4) of subsection (h)
1074 of this section remain after the reduction in the calculation of nuclear
1075 generation assets pursuant to said subdivision (4) or are realized after
1076 said reduction is calculated, the additional amount of such net proceeds
1077 shall be netted against long-term contract costs described in subdivision
1078 (2) of subsection (f) of this section, and the competitive transition
1079 assessment shall be adjusted accordingly.

1080 (j) No electric distribution company shall be eligible to claim any
1081 stranded costs for a nuclear generation asset or for any generation-
1082 related regulatory asset related to such generation asset, if the
1083 generation asset is not operating as a result of an order issued by the
1084 United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission that applies specifically
1085 to such asset. Any such asset that is not eligible to be claimed as a
1086 stranded cost shall be eligible after it is permitted to and has resumed
1087 operation and is selling power.

1088 (k) If an electric distribution company elected to transfer any of its
1089 nuclear generation assets and related operations and functions to a
1090 separate corporate affiliate or to a division that is functionally separate
1091 from the electric distribution company pursuant to section 16-244g and

1092 subsequently sold any such assets in an arm's length transaction to an
1093 unrelated entity prior to January 1, 2012, the net proceeds realized from
1094 such sale that exceed book value for such assets shall be netted against
1095 the total amount of stranded costs, and the competitive transition
1096 assessment shall be adjusted accordingly and, if appropriate, other
1097 reimbursement shall be ordered by the authority.

1098 (l) Upon receipt of a petition from an electric distribution company,
1099 or upon its own motion, the authority may determine, at its sole
1100 discretion, that the issuance of rate reduction bonds is in the best interest
1101 of ratepayers. Upon the issuance of a financing order by the authority
1102 that specifies the appropriate amount, timing and terms of such rate
1103 reduction bond issuance, the financing entity shall issue such rate
1104 reduction bonds in accordance with the financing order, provided the
1105 aggregate principal amount of such bonds shall not exceed two billion
1106 two hundred million dollars. Subject to the reconciliation process set
1107 forth in this subsection, the costs of any rate reduction bonds, including
1108 all principal, interest, premium, costs, and arrearages on such bonds,
1109 shall be recovered through the competitive transition assessment
1110 pursuant to section 16-245g, as amended by this act. Upon the issuance
1111 of any rate reduction bonds as ordered by the authority to recover any
1112 financed utility services, the authority shall periodically adjust the
1113 competitive transition assessment in accordance with section 16-245j to
1114 allow, as amended by this act, the recovery of the cost of such bonds,
1115 including through a reconciliation of the actual revenues from the
1116 competitive transition assessment to the actual cost of such bonds. If the
1117 proceeds used to purchase transition property with respect to rate
1118 reduction bonds issued for the deployment of advanced metering
1119 infrastructure is subsequently determined by the authority pursuant to
1120 the standards set forth in sections 16-11, 16-19, as amended by this act,
1121 or 16-19e to exceed the amount prudently and efficiently incurred for
1122 the deployment of advanced metering infrastructure, the total cost of
1123 such bonds resulting from the excess shall be returned to ratepayers,
1124 with interest, in a manner determined by the authority, including by
1125 decreasing another nonbypassable rate charged by such electric

1126 distribution company to proportionately account for such decrease, or
1127 through the revenue decoupling mechanism line item, provided the
1128 competitive transition assessment shall not be decreased in connection
1129 with such reconciliation.

1130 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the net
1131 benefits of accumulated deferred income taxes relating to amounts that
1132 will be recovered through the issuance of rate reduction bonds for
1133 financed utility services shall be credited to retail customers of electric
1134 distribution companies by reducing the amount of such rate reduction
1135 bonds that would otherwise be issued by the net present value of the
1136 related tax cash flows, using a discount rate equal to the expected
1137 interest rate on such rate reduction bonds.

1138 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 16-245f of the general statutes is
1139 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1140 *2025*):

1141 (a) (1) An electric distribution company shall submit to the authority
1142 an application for a financing order with respect to any proposal to
1143 sustain funding of conservation and load management and renewable
1144 energy investment programs by substituting disbursements to the
1145 General Fund from proceeds of rate reduction bonds for such
1146 disbursements from the Conservation and Load Management Plan
1147 established by section 16-245m, as amended by this act, and from the
1148 Clean Energy Fund established by section 16-245n, and may submit to
1149 the authority an application for a financing order with respect to the
1150 following stranded costs: [(1)] (A) The cost of mitigation efforts, as
1151 calculated pursuant to subsection (c) of section 16-245e, as amended by
1152 this act; [(2)] (B) generation-related regulatory assets, as calculated
1153 pursuant to subsection (e) of section 16-245e, as amended by this act;
1154 and [(3)] (C) those long-term contract costs that have been reduced to a
1155 fixed present value through the buyout, buydown, or renegotiation of
1156 such contracts, as calculated pursuant to subsection (f) of section 16-
1157 245e, as amended by this act. No stranded costs shall be funded with the
1158 proceeds of rate reduction bonds unless [(A)] (i) the electric distribution

1159 company proves to the satisfaction of the authority that the savings
1160 attributable to such funding will be directly passed on to customers
1161 through lower rates, and [(B)] (ii) the authority determines such funding
1162 will not result in giving the electric distribution company or any
1163 generation entities or affiliates an unfair competitive advantage.

1164 (2) An electric distribution company may submit to the authority a
1165 petition for a financing order with respect to financed utility services
1166 that have been determined by the authority in a separate proceeding to
1167 be appropriate for cost recovery pursuant to the standards set forth in
1168 section 16-19, as amended by this act, or 16-19e. The authority shall issue
1169 its response to such petition not more than one hundred twenty days
1170 after its receipt of a petition for a financing order pursuant to this
1171 subdivision.

1172 (3) The authority shall hold a hearing for each such electric
1173 distribution company to determine the amount of disbursements to the
1174 General Fund from proceeds of rate reduction bonds that may be
1175 substituted for such disbursements from the Conservation and Load
1176 Management Plan established by section 16-245m, as amended by this
1177 act, and from the Clean Energy Fund established by section 16-245n, and
1178 thereby constitute transition property and the portion of stranded costs
1179 or financed utility services that may be included in such funding and
1180 thereby constitute transition property. Any hearing shall be conducted
1181 as a contested case in accordance with chapter 54, except that any
1182 hearing with respect to a financing order or other order to sustain
1183 funding for conservation and load management and renewable energy
1184 investment programs by substituting the disbursement to the General
1185 Fund from the Conservation and Load Management Plan established by
1186 section 16-245m, as amended by this act, and from the Clean Energy
1187 Investment Fund established by section 16-245n, shall not be a contested
1188 case, as defined in section 4-166. The authority shall not include any rate
1189 reduction bonds as debt of an electric distribution company in
1190 determining the capital structure of the company in a rate-making
1191 proceeding, for calculating the company's return on equity or in any

1192 manner that would impact the electric distribution company for rate-
1193 making purposes, and shall not approve such rate reduction bonds that
1194 include covenants that have provisions prohibiting any change to their
1195 appointment of an administrator of the Conservation and Load
1196 Management Plan.

1197 Sec. 12. Section 16-245g of the general statutes is repealed and the
1198 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1199 (a) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall assess and
1200 beginning January 1, 2000, or a later date determined by the authority
1201 in a finance order with respect to any subsequent issuance of rate
1202 reduction bonds, impose the competitive transition assessment which
1203 shall be imposed on all customers of each electric distribution company
1204 to provide funds for the purposes described in subsection (d) of this
1205 section. The authority shall hold a hearing that shall be conducted as a
1206 contested case in accordance with chapter 54, except as otherwise
1207 provided in section 16-245f, as amended by this act, to determine the
1208 amount of the competitive transition assessment.

1209 (b) The authority shall consider the effect on all customer rates and
1210 other factors relevant to reducing rates in determining the amount of the
1211 competitive transition assessment and the manner in which and the
1212 period over which it shall be imposed in any decision of the authority
1213 to set or adjust the competitive transition assessment.

1214 (c) The competitive transition assessment shall be determined by the
1215 authority in a general and equitable manner and, in accordance with the
1216 provisions of subsection (b) of section 16-245f, shall be imposed on all
1217 customers at a rate that is applied equally to all customers of the same
1218 class in accordance with methods of allocation in effect on July 1, 1998,
1219 or a later date determined by the authority in a finance order with
1220 respect to any subsequent issuance of rate reduction bonds, provided
1221 the competitive transition assessment shall not be imposed on
1222 customers receiving services under a special contract which is in effect
1223 on July 1, 1998, or a later date determined by the authority in a finance

1224 order with respect to any subsequent issuance of rate reduction bonds,
1225 until such special contract expires. The competitive transition
1226 assessment shall be imposed beginning on January 1, 2000, or a later
1227 date determined by the authority in a finance order with respect to any
1228 subsequent issuance of rate reduction bonds, on all customers receiving
1229 services under a special contract [which] that is entered into or renewed
1230 after July 1, 1998, or a later date determined by the authority in a finance
1231 order with respect to any subsequent issuance of rate reduction bonds.
1232 The competitive transition assessment shall have a generally applicable
1233 manner of determination that may be measured on the basis of
1234 percentages of total costs of retail sales of electric generation services.
1235 Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 16-245f, the
1236 competitive transition assessment shall be payable by customers on an
1237 equal basis on the same payment terms and shall be eligible or subject
1238 to prepayment on an equal basis. Any exemption of the competitive
1239 transition assessment by customers under a special contract shall not
1240 result in an increase in rates to any customer.

1241 (d) The authority shall establish, fix and revise the competitive
1242 transition assessment in an amount sufficient at all times to: (1) Pay the
1243 principal of and the interest and any credit enhancement or premium
1244 on rate reduction bonds as the same shall become due and payable; (2)
1245 to pay all reasonable and necessary expenses relating to the financing;
1246 and (3) to pay an electric distribution company stranded costs or
1247 financed utility services that are not funded with the proceeds of rate
1248 reduction bonds and interim capital costs determined under
1249 subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 16-244g.

1250 (e) The competitive transition assessment shall be charged to
1251 customers until the rate reduction bonds are paid in full, including all
1252 principal, interest, premium, costs and arrearages on such bonds, by the
1253 financing entity and stranded costs and financed utility services not
1254 funded with the proceeds of rate reduction bonds are fully recovered by
1255 the electric distribution company. Amounts collected from a customer
1256 shall be allocated on a pro rata basis among (1) rates and charges

1257 described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
1258 section 16-245e, as amended by this act, (2) rates and charges described
1259 in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-
1260 245e, as amended by this act, and (3) other charges. To the extent that
1261 the authority, when issuing a financing order, determines that special
1262 treatment on customers' bills is necessary or desirable to distinguish
1263 rates and charges described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of
1264 subsection (a) of section 16-245e, as amended by this act, from rates and
1265 charges described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection
1266 (a) of section 16-245e, as amended by this act, in order to facilitate the
1267 successful issuance and sale of rate reduction bonds, it may so provide
1268 as part of such financing order.

1269 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 16-245h of the general statutes is
1270 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1271 *2025*):

1272 (a) The competitive transition assessment described in subparagraph
1273 (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-245e, as amended
1274 by this act, shall constitute transition property when, and to the extent
1275 that, a financing order authorizing such portion of the competitive
1276 transition assessment has become effective in accordance with sections
1277 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, and the transition
1278 property shall thereafter continuously exist as property for all purposes
1279 with all of the rights and privileges of sections 16-245e to 16-245k,
1280 inclusive, as amended by this act, for the period and to the extent
1281 provided in the financing order, but in any event until the rate reduction
1282 bonds are paid in full, including all principal, interest, premium, costs,
1283 and arrearages on such bonds. Prior to its sale or other transfer by the
1284 electric distribution company pursuant to sections 16-245e to 16-245k,
1285 inclusive, as amended by this act, transition property, other than
1286 transition property in respect of the economic recovery transfer or in
1287 respect to disbursements to the General Fund to sustain funding of
1288 conservation and load management and renewable energy investment
1289 programs, shall be a vested contract right of the electric distribution

1290 company, notwithstanding any contrary treatment thereof for
1291 accounting, tax, or other purpose. Transition property in respect of
1292 disbursements to the General Fund to sustain funding of conservation
1293 and load management and renewable energy investment programs
1294 shall immediately upon its creation vest solely in the financing entity.
1295 Transition property in respect to the economic recovery transfer shall
1296 immediately upon its creation vest solely in the financing entity.
1297 Notwithstanding the authority's calculation of costs that may be
1298 collected pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-245e, as amended by
1299 this act, or the adjustment of rates pursuant to subsection (f) of section
1300 16-245e, as amended by this act, transition property in respect to
1301 financed utility services shall immediately upon its creation vest solely
1302 in the applicable electric distribution company. The electric distribution
1303 company shall not include transition property in its calculation of any
1304 rate base and shall have no right, title or interest in transition property
1305 in respect to the economic recovery transfer or in respect of
1306 disbursements to the General Fund to sustain funding of conservation
1307 and load management and renewable energy investment programs, and
1308 in respect of such transition property shall be only a collection agent on
1309 behalf of the financing entity.

1310 Sec. 14. Section 16-245i of the general statutes is repealed and the
1311 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1312 (a) The authority may issue financing orders in accordance with
1313 sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, to fund
1314 the economic recovery transfer, to sustain funding of conservation and
1315 load management and renewable energy investment programs by
1316 substituting disbursements to the General Fund from proceeds of rate
1317 reduction bonds for such disbursements in furtherance of the
1318 Conservation and Load Management Plan established by section 16-
1319 245m, as amended by this act, and from the Clean Energy Fund
1320 established by section 16-245n, and to facilitate the provision, recovery,
1321 financing, or refinancing of stranded costs and financed utility services.
1322 Except for a financing order in respect to the economic recovery revenue

1323 bonds, a financing order may be adopted [only] upon the application of
1324 an electric distribution company or upon the authority's own motion,
1325 pursuant to section 16-245f, as amended by this act, and shall become
1326 effective in accordance with its terms only after the electric distribution
1327 company files with the authority the electric distribution company's
1328 written consent to all terms and conditions of the financing order. Any
1329 financing order in respect to the economic recovery revenue bonds shall
1330 be effective on issuance.

1331 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule, or regulation
1332 to the contrary, except as otherwise provided in this subsection with
1333 respect to transition property that has been made the basis for the
1334 issuance of rate reduction bonds, the financing orders and the
1335 competitive transition assessment shall be irrevocable and the authority
1336 shall not have authority either by rescinding, altering, or amending the
1337 financing order or otherwise, to revalue or revise for rate-making
1338 purposes the stranded costs and financed utility services, or the costs of
1339 providing, recovering, financing, or refinancing the stranded costs and
1340 financed utility services, the amount of the economic recovery transfer
1341 or the amount of disbursements to the General Fund from proceeds of
1342 rate reduction bonds substituted for such disbursements in furtherance
1343 of the Conservation and Load Management Plan established by section
1344 16-245m, as amended by this act, and from the Clean Energy Fund
1345 established by section 16-245n, determine that the competitive transition
1346 assessment is unjust or unreasonable, or in any way reduce or impair
1347 the value of transition property either directly or indirectly by taking the
1348 competitive transition assessment into account when setting other rates
1349 for the electric distribution company; nor shall the amount of revenues
1350 arising with respect thereto be subject to reduction, impairment,
1351 postponement, or termination.

1352 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the authority
1353 shall approve the adjustments to the competitive transition assessment
1354 as may be necessary to ensure timely recovery of all stranded costs and
1355 financed utility services that are the subject of the pertinent financing

1356 order, and the costs of capital associated with the provision, recovery,
1357 financing [] or refinancing thereof, including the costs of issuing,
1358 servicing [] and retiring the rate reduction bonds issued to recover
1359 stranded costs and financed utility services contemplated by the
1360 financing order and to ensure timely recovery of the costs of issuing,
1361 servicing [] and retiring the rate reduction bonds issued to sustain
1362 funding of conservation and load management and renewable energy
1363 investment programs contemplated by the financing order, and to
1364 ensure timely recovery of the costs of issuing, servicing and retiring the
1365 economic recovery revenue bonds issued to fund the economic recovery
1366 transfer contemplated by the financing order.

1367 (3) Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule, or regulation to
1368 the contrary, any requirement under sections 16-245e to 16-245k,
1369 inclusive, as amended by this act, or a financing order that the authority
1370 take action with respect to the subject matter of a financing order shall
1371 be binding upon the authority, as it may be constituted from time to
1372 time, and any successor agency exercising functions similar to the
1373 authority and the authority shall have no authority to rescind, alter, or
1374 amend that requirement in a financing order. Section 16-43 shall not
1375 apply to any sale, assignment, or other transfer of or grant of a security
1376 interest in any transition property or the issuance of rate reduction
1377 bonds under sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this
1378 act.

1379 (c) The authority shall provide in any financing order for a procedure
1380 for the timely approval by the authority of periodic adjustments to the
1381 competitive transition assessment that is the subject of the pertinent
1382 financing order, as required by subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
1383 section. The procedure shall require the authority to determine whether
1384 the adjustments are required on [each anniversary of the issuance of the
1385 financing order] an annual basis, and at the additional intervals as may
1386 be provided for in the financing order, and for the adjustments, if
1387 required, to be approved within ninety days of [each anniversary of the
1388 issuance of the financing order, or of each additional interval] the filing

1389 of each adjustment or within such shorter period as may be provided
1390 for in the financing order.

1391 Sec. 15. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 16-245j of the general
1392 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1393 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1394 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the state of
1395 Connecticut does hereby pledge and agree with the owners of transition
1396 property and holders of rate reduction bonds that neither the state nor
1397 any agency of the state shall [neither] limit, [nor] alter, amend, reduce
1398 or impair the competitive transition assessment, transition property,
1399 financing orders, and all rights thereunder until the obligations,
1400 together with the interest thereon, are fully met and discharged,
1401 provided nothing contained in this subsection shall preclude the
1402 limitation or alteration if and when adequate provision shall be made
1403 by law for the protection of the owners and holders. The finance
1404 authority as agent for the state is authorized to include this pledge and
1405 undertaking for the state in these obligations.

1406 (c) (1) Financing orders and rate reduction bonds shall not be deemed
1407 to constitute a debt or liability of the state or of any political subdivision
1408 thereof, other than the financing entity, shall not constitute a pledge of
1409 the full faith and credit of the state or any of its political subdivisions,
1410 other than the financing entity, but shall be payable solely from the
1411 funds provided under sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as
1412 amended by this act, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the state
1413 within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory debt limitation or
1414 restriction and, accordingly, shall not be subject to any statutory
1415 limitation on the indebtedness of the state and shall not be included in
1416 computing the aggregate indebtedness of the state in respect to and to
1417 the extent of any such limitation. This subsection shall in no way
1418 preclude bond guarantees or enhancements pursuant to sections 16-
1419 245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act. All rate reduction
1420 bonds shall contain on the face thereof a statement to the following
1421 effect: "Neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State

1422 of Connecticut is pledged to the payment of the principal of, or interest
1423 on, this bond."

1424 (2) The issuance of rate reduction bonds under sections 16-245e to 16-
1425 245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall not directly, indirectly, or
1426 contingently obligate the state or any political subdivision thereof to
1427 levy or to pledge any form of taxation therefor or to make any
1428 appropriation for their payment.

1429 (3) The exercise of the powers granted by sections 16-245e to 16-245k,
1430 inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be in all respects for the benefit
1431 of the people of this state, for the increase of their commerce, welfare,
1432 and prosperity, and as the exercise of such powers shall constitute the
1433 performance of an essential public function, neither the finance
1434 authority, any electric distribution company, any affiliate of any electric
1435 distribution company, any financing entity, or any collection or other
1436 agent of any of the foregoing shall be required to pay any taxes or
1437 assessments upon or in respect of any revenues or property received,
1438 acquired, transferred, or used by the finance authority, any electric
1439 distribution company, any affiliate of any electric distribution company,
1440 any financing entity, or any collection or other agent of any of the
1441 foregoing under the provisions of sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive,
1442 as amended by this act, or upon or in respect of the income therefrom,
1443 and any rate reduction bonds shall be treated as issued by or on behalf
1444 of a public instrumentality created under the laws of the state for
1445 purposes of chapter 229.

1446 (4) (A) The proceeds of any rate reduction bonds, other than
1447 economic recovery revenue bonds, shall be used for the purposes
1448 approved by the authority in the financing order, including, but not
1449 limited to, disbursements to the General Fund in substitution for such
1450 disbursements in furtherance of the Conservation and Load
1451 Management Plan established by section 16-245m, as amended by this
1452 act, and from the Clean Energy Fund established by section 16-245n, the
1453 costs of refinancing or retiring of debt of the electric distribution
1454 company, and associated federal and state tax liabilities; provided such

1455 proceeds shall not be applied to purchase generation assets or to
1456 purchase or redeem stock or to pay dividends to parent company
1457 shareholders or to pay operating expenses other than taxes resulting
1458 from the receipt of such proceeds.

1459 (B) The proceeds of any economic recovery revenue bonds shall be
1460 used for the purposes approved by the authority in the financing order,
1461 including, but not limited to, funding the economic recovery transfer,
1462 provided such proceeds shall not be applied to purchase generation
1463 assets or to purchase or redeem stock or to pay dividends to
1464 shareholders or operating expenses other than taxes resulting from the
1465 receipt of such proceeds.

1466 (5) Rate reduction bonds are made and declared (A) securities in
1467 which all public officers and public bodies of the state and its political
1468 subdivisions, all insurance companies, state banks and trust companies,
1469 national banking associations, savings banks, savings and loan
1470 associations, investment companies, executors, administrators, trustees
1471 and other fiduciaries may properly and legally invest funds, including
1472 capital in their control or belonging to them, and (B) securities which
1473 may properly and legally be deposited with and received by any state
1474 or municipal officer or any agency or political subdivision of the state
1475 for any purpose for which the deposit of bonds or obligations of the state
1476 is now or may be authorized.

1477 (6) Rate reduction bonds, other than economic recovery revenue
1478 bonds, shall mature at such time or times approved by the authority in
1479 the financing order. [; provided that such maturity shall not be later than
1480 December 31, 2011.] Economic recovery revenue bonds shall mature at
1481 such time or times approved by the authority in the financing order,
1482 provided such maturity shall not be later than eight years after the date
1483 of issuance, provided such maturity may be extended for economic
1484 reasons, upon the advice of the financing entity.

1485 (7) Rate reduction bonds issued and at any time outstanding may, if
1486 and to the extent permitted under the indenture or other agreement

1487 pursuant to which they are issued, be refunded by other rate reduction
1488 bonds.

1489 Sec. 16. Subsection (l) of section 16-245k of the general statutes is
1490 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1491 *2025*):

1492 (l) [The authority of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to issue
1493 financing orders pursuant to sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, shall
1494 expire on December 31, 2008, with respect to bonds other than economic
1495 recovery revenue bonds.] The authority of the Public Utilities
1496 Regulatory Authority to issue financing orders pursuant to sections 16-
1497 245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, with respect to
1498 economic recovery revenue bonds shall expire on December 31, 2012.
1499 The expiration of such authority shall have no effect upon any other
1500 financing orders adopted by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
1501 pursuant to sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this
1502 act, or upon any financing orders adopted by the Public Utilities
1503 Regulatory Authority pursuant to sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive,
1504 as amended by this act, with respect to economic recovery bonds prior
1505 to December 31, 2012, or any transition property arising [therefrom]
1506 from any such financing orders, or upon the charges authorized to be
1507 levied thereunder, or the rights, interests, and obligations of the electric
1508 distribution company or a financing entity or holders of rate reduction
1509 bonds pursuant to [the] any such financing order, or the authority of the
1510 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to monitor, supervise, or take
1511 further action with respect to [the] any such financing order in
1512 accordance with the terms of sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as
1513 amended by this act, and of [the] any such financing order.

1514 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding any
1515 provision of title 16 of the general statutes, the Public Utilities
1516 Regulatory Authority may select the Connecticut Green Bank, the
1517 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the electric
1518 distribution companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes,
1519 as amended by this act, a third party that the authority deems

1520 appropriate or any combination thereof to implement any ratepayer-
1521 funded clean energy or renewable energy program established by the
1522 authority in a proceeding. Any such selection shall be based upon the
1523 authority's analysis of record evidence in an uncontested proceeding of
1524 an entity's qualifications and experience administering the same or
1525 comparable programs, projected cost savings, potential administrative
1526 efficiencies, and impact on customer experience associated with each
1527 such entity's implementation of such programs.

1528 Sec. 18. (*Effective from passage*) The Office of Consumer Counsel, in
1529 consultation with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and the
1530 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall prepare a
1531 report that describes the line items included in the charges known as the
1532 "combined public benefits charges" on a bill to any end use customer of
1533 an electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1 of the
1534 general statutes, as amended by this act. Such report shall include, but
1535 need not be limited to, an examination of the enabling authority for the
1536 imposition of any such line item, and the purpose, costs and benefits
1537 associated with any such line item. Not later than October 1, 2026, the
1538 Consumer Counsel shall submit a report, in accordance with the
1539 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
1540 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1541 relating to energy and technology.

1542 Sec. 19. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 16-19f of the general statutes
1543 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1544 *1, 2025*):

1545 (a) As used in this section and section 16-243n, as amended by this
1546 act:

1547 (1) "Cost of service" means an electric utility rate for a class of
1548 consumer which is designed, to the maximum extent practicable, to
1549 reflect the cost to the utility in providing electric service to such class;

1550 (2) "Declining block rate" means an electric utility rate for a class of

1551 consumer [which] that prices successive blocks of electricity consumed
1552 by such consumer at lower per-unit prices;

1553 (3) ["Time of day rate"] "Time-varying rate" means an electric utility
1554 rate for a class of consumer [which] that is designed to (A) reflect the
1555 cost to the utility of providing electricity to such consumer at different
1556 times, [of the day] and (B) create a price differential that incentivizes
1557 targeted electric load growth and system efficiency, which may include
1558 critical peak pricing;

1559 (4) "Seasonal rate" means an electric utility rate for a class of consumer
1560 designed to reflect the cost to the utility in providing electricity to such
1561 consumer during different seasons of the year;

1562 [(5) "Electric vehicle time of day rate" means an electric utility rate for
1563 a class of consumer designed to reflect the cost to the utility of providing
1564 electricity to such consumer charging an electric vehicle at an electric
1565 vehicle charging station at different times of the day, but shall not
1566 include demand charges;]

1567 [(6)] (5) "Electric vehicle charging station" means an electric
1568 component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed
1569 specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles by permitting the
1570 transfer of electric energy to a battery or other storage device in an
1571 electric vehicle;

1572 [(7)] (6) "Public electric vehicle charging station" means an electric
1573 vehicle charging station located at a publicly available parking space;

1574 [(8)] (7) "Publicly available parking space" means a parking space that
1575 has been designated by a property owner or lessee to be available to,
1576 and accessible by, the public and may include on-street parking spaces
1577 and parking spaces in surface lots or parking garages, but shall not
1578 include: (A) A parking space that is part of, or associated with, a private
1579 residence; (B) a parking space that is reserved for the exclusive use of an
1580 individual driver or vehicle or for a group of drivers or vehicles, such as
1581 employees, tenants, visitors, residents of a common interest

1582 development, or residents of an adjacent building; or (C) a parking
1583 space reserved for persons who are blind and persons with disabilities
1584 as described in section 14-253a;

1585 [(9) "Interruptible rate" means an electric utility rate designed to
1586 reflect the cost to the utility in providing service to a consumer where
1587 such consumer permits his service to be interrupted during periods of
1588 peak electrical demand; and]

1589 [(10)] (8) "Load management techniques" means cost-effective
1590 techniques used by an electric utility to reduce the maximum kilowatt
1591 demand on the [utility] utility's system or shift the demand to maximize
1592 electric grid efficiency, as determined by the authority;

1593 (9) "On-peak" means a period likely to capture the regional
1594 independent system operator and electric distribution system peaks or
1595 to incentivize the cost-effective shifting of load to maximize grid
1596 efficiency, as determined by the authority;

1597 (10) "Critical peak" means a period when system costs are highest or
1598 when the power grid is severely stressed and electric customers may
1599 pay higher prices as a result of such stress; and

1600 (11) "Default rate" means the electric utility rate in which a consumer
1601 is enrolled at the start of service if the consumer does not specify a
1602 preferred rate.

1603 (b) [The] Not later than October 1, 2027, the Public Utilities
1604 Regulatory Authority shall, with respect to each electric public service
1605 company, [shall (1) within two years, consider and determine whether
1606 it is appropriate to implement any of the following rate design
1607 standards: (A) Cost of service; (B) prohibition of declining block rates;
1608 (C) time of day rates; (D) seasonal rates; (E) interruptible rates; and (F)
1609 load management techniques, and (2) not later than June 1, 2017,
1610 consider and determine whether it is appropriate to implement electric
1611 vehicle time of day rates] initiate a docket or dockets for the purpose of
1612 evaluating applications submitted by the electric distribution

1613 companies for the implementation of time-varying rates for residential
1614 and commercial customers. The [consideration of said standards by the
1615 authority shall be made] authority may implement such rates after
1616 public notice and hearing. Such hearing may be held concurrently with
1617 a hearing required pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-19e. [The]
1618 Upon submission of proposed time-varying rates by each electric
1619 distribution company, the authority shall [make a determination on]
1620 evaluate whether it is appropriate to implement any [of said standards]
1621 time-varying rate. Said determination shall be in writing, shall take into
1622 consideration the evidence presented at the hearing and shall be
1623 available to the public. A [standard] time-varying rate shall be deemed
1624 to be appropriate for implementation if such rate is in the best interest
1625 of ratepayers. The authority shall consider (1) if the benefits of the rate
1626 exceed the costs of implementing such rate, including but not limited to
1627 any capital investments necessary to implement such rate, (2) if such
1628 implementation would encourage energy conservation, optimal and
1629 efficient use of facilities and resources by an electric public service
1630 company, [and] (3) equitable rates for electric consumers approved by
1631 the authority, and (4) any other considerations the authority deems
1632 appropriate to determine whether such rate is in the best interest of the
1633 ratepayers.

1634 Sec. 20. Section 16-243n of the general statutes is repealed and the
1635 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1636 (a) Not later than October 1, [2005] 2027, each electric distribution
1637 company, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this act, shall submit
1638 an application to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to [(1) on or
1639 before January 1, 2007,] implement [time-of-use] time-varying rates for
1640 (1) residential customers, [that have a maximum demand of not less
1641 than three hundred fifty kilowatts that may include, but not be limited
1642 to, mandatory peak, shoulder and off-peak time-of-use rates, and (2) on
1643 or before June 1, 2006, offer optional interruptible or load response rates
1644 for customers that have a maximum demand of not less than three
1645 hundred fifty kilowatts and offer optional seasonal and time-of-use

1646 rates for all customers. The application shall propose to establish time-
1647 of-use rates through a procurement plan, revenue neutral adjustments
1648 to delivery rates, or both] and (2) commercial and industrial customers.

1649 (b) [Not later than November 1, 2005, each electric distribution
1650 company shall submit an application to the Public Utilities Regulatory
1651 Authority to implement mandatory seasonal rates for all customers
1652 beginning April 1, 2007.] (1) Time-varying rate proposals for
1653 transmission, distribution and all other retail electric rate components
1654 submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall (A) provide for
1655 fixed rates across twenty-four-hour cycles within each season, (B) be
1656 based on projected seasonal demand and include on-peak rates, and (C)
1657 adequately incentivize the cost-effective shifting of load to off-peak
1658 periods by applying an appropriate price differential between on-peak
1659 and off-peak time-varying rates. The design of such rates, including the
1660 price differential between on-peak and off-peak time-varying rates,
1661 shall be consistent with empirical research conducted by the electric
1662 distribution company and other rate-design experts.

1663 (2) Any application submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
1664 section that proposes a seasonal rate component to such time-varying
1665 rates shall submit the following concerning such proposed seasonal
1666 rates: (A) Any proposal for differentiation of generation, transmission
1667 and distribution energy and demand rates (i) into summer and
1668 nonsummer periods, at a minimum, and if cost differences between
1669 summer and nonsummer periods are substantial, (ii) into winter and
1670 shoulder month periods, with consideration of projected electric
1671 customer acceptance and usage of such rates, and (B) the appropriate
1672 phase-in period over which time electric customers may adjust to
1673 seasonal rates without experiencing a sudden, significant increase in
1674 electricity prices.

1675 (3) Any application submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
1676 section shall propose to establish (A) such time-varying rates through
1677 an approved revenue recovery mechanism for transmission and
1678 distribution rates, and (B) a revenue reconciliation mechanism whereby

1679 any revenue undercollected or overcollected through such time-varying
1680 rates is recovered or refunded, as appropriate, through a subsequent
1681 billing reconciliation adjustment.

1682 (4) Time-varying rates submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
1683 section shall be designed as default rates, with consideration for
1684 principles of gradualism and customer acceptance and established
1685 exceptions as deemed appropriate by the authority, including but not
1686 limited to, for medically protected and financial hardship customers,
1687 and provided the application (A) proposes a comprehensive customer
1688 education program that meets the requirements of section 21 of this act;
1689 (B) provides for a clearly defined opt-out process concerning such rates;
1690 and (C) gives due consideration to the interaction of any time-varying
1691 rate design with existing and foreseeable low-income rates and
1692 programs.

1693 (c) The authority shall hold a hearing that shall be conducted as a
1694 contested case, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
1695 approve, reject or modify applications submitted pursuant to subsection
1696 (a) [or (b)] of this section. No application for [time-of-use] time-varying
1697 rates shall be approved by the authority unless (1) such rates reasonably
1698 reflect the cost of service during their respective [time-of-use] time-
1699 varying periods, [and] (2) the costs associated with implementation, the
1700 impact on customers and benefits to the utility system justify
1701 implementation of such rates, and (3) such rates are expected to alter
1702 patterns of customer consumption of electricity without undue adverse
1703 effect on the customer.

1704 (d) Each electric distribution company shall assist customers to help
1705 manage loads and reduce peak consumption through the
1706 comprehensive plan developed pursuant to section 16-245m, as
1707 amended by this act.

1708 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Each electric distribution
1709 company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, as amended
1710 by this act, shall, in consultation with the Office of Consumer Counsel

1711 and the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, design
1712 a comprehensive customer education and engagement program for the
1713 purpose of informing electric distribution customers of the benefits of
1714 time-varying rates and encouraging such customers to utilize such rates
1715 and any available technology that enables the realization of customer
1716 cost savings on such time-varying rates. The customer education and
1717 engagement program design shall include (1) approved methods of
1718 customer outreach, education and engagement activities, including
1719 strategies to maximize customer cost savings, (2) objective performance
1720 standards regarding the program's implementation, and (3) mandatory
1721 reporting requirements for electric distribution companies concerning
1722 such companies' compliance with the program requirements, including
1723 the submission of documentation and data as required by the Public
1724 Utilities Regulatory Authority.

1725 (b) In any rate case initiated on or after July 1, 2025, an electric
1726 distribution company shall submit as part of its rate amendment
1727 application a detailed proposal, or an update to a proposal previously
1728 approved pursuant to this subsection, to develop the program required
1729 under subsection (a) of this section for review and approval by the
1730 authority. Upon approval by the authority, the program shall be
1731 administered by the electric distribution companies.

1732 Sec. 22. Section 16-32e of the general statutes is repealed and the
1733 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1734 (a) As used in this section, "emergency" means any (1) hurricane,
1735 tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave,
1736 tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide,
1737 snowstorm, drought, wildfire or fire explosion, or (2) attack or series of
1738 attacks by an enemy of the United States causing, or which may cause,
1739 substantial damage or injury to civilian property or persons in the
1740 United States in any manner by sabotage or by the use of bombs,
1741 shellfire or atomic, radiological, chemical, bacteriological or biological
1742 means or other weapons or processes.

1743 (b) Not later than July 1, 2012, and every two years thereafter, each
1744 public service company, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this
1745 act, each telecommunications company, as defined in section 16-1, as
1746 amended by this act, that installs, maintains, operates or controls poles,
1747 wires, conduits or other fixtures under or over any public highway for
1748 the provision of telecommunications service authorized by section 16-
1749 247c, each voice over Internet protocol service provider, as defined in
1750 section 28-30b, and each municipal utility furnishing electric, gas or
1751 water service shall file with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority,
1752 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and each
1753 municipality located within the service area of the public service
1754 company, telecommunications company, voice over Internet protocol
1755 service provider or municipal utility an updated plan for restoring
1756 service which is interrupted as a result of an emergency, except no such
1757 plan shall be required of a public service company or municipal utility
1758 that submits a water supply plan pursuant to section 25-32d. Plans filed
1759 by public service companies and municipal utilities furnishing water
1760 shall be prepared in accordance with the memorandum of
1761 understanding entered into pursuant to section 4-67e.

1762 (c) (1) Each electric distribution company required to file a plan for
1763 restoring service pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall establish
1764 an emergency service restoration planning committee. Not less than
1765 fifty per cent of the members of such committee shall be line and
1766 restoration crew members employed by such company. The balance of
1767 the members appointed to such committee shall be appointed by such
1768 company. Each such emergency service restoration planning committee
1769 shall also meet not later than sixty days after the occurrence of any
1770 emergency that results in a service interruption to thirty per cent or
1771 more of the customers of such company to review and provide feedback
1772 on the application of the plan and incorporate such feedback into plans
1773 for future emergencies.

1774 (2) If line and restoration crew members employed by such company
1775 are members of a collective bargaining unit, the collective bargaining

1776 unit shall select the line and restoration crew members appointed to
1777 such committee. If such line and restoration crew members are not
1778 members of a collective bargaining unit, the line and crew members
1779 appointed to such committee shall be selected through a process
1780 determined by the line and crew members employed by such company.

1781 (3) A committee established pursuant to this subsection shall have
1782 two co-chairpersons, one of whom shall be a line and restoration crew
1783 member employed by such company elected by the members of the
1784 committee who are line and restoration crew members, and one of
1785 whom shall be elected by the members of the committee who are not
1786 line and restoration crew members.

1787 (4) A committee established pursuant to this subsection shall make a
1788 written meeting summary of each meeting and make such summaries
1789 available to any employee of such company upon request and submit
1790 such summaries to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and the
1791 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection upon request.
1792 A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum
1793 for the transaction of committee business. Decisions of the committee
1794 shall be made by majority vote of the members present at any meeting.

1795 (d) Each such plan for restoring service which is interrupted as a
1796 result of an emergency shall include measures for (1) communication
1797 and coordination with state officials, municipalities and other public
1798 service companies and telecommunications companies during a major
1799 disaster, as defined in section 28-1, or an emergency; [and] (2)
1800 participation in training exercises as directed by the Commissioner of
1801 Emergency Services and Public Protection; (3) measures to protect the
1802 health and safety of line and restoration crews during an emergency and
1803 during the restoration of service, including the provision of appropriate
1804 personal protective equipment and any such measures that are
1805 contained in a collective bargaining agreement or other health and
1806 safety policies applicable to such crews; and (4) referencing any
1807 applicable documents, including collective bargaining agreements in
1808 effect that describe any training and skills job progression plan, or other

1809 comparable documents, for line and restoration workers. If line and
1810 restoration crew members are members of a collective bargaining unit,
1811 such training and skills job progression plans, or other comparable
1812 documents, shall be jointly developed by the company and such
1813 collective bargaining unit. Each such plan shall include such company's,
1814 provider's or municipal utility's response for service outages affecting
1815 more than ten per cent, thirty per cent, fifty per cent and seventy per
1816 cent of such company's, provider's or municipal utility's customers. On
1817 or before September 1, 2012, and biannually thereafter, the authority
1818 shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint
1819 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1820 matters relating to public utilities summarizing such plans. Not later
1821 than September 15, 2012, and every two years thereafter, the Public
1822 Utilities Regulatory Authority may conduct public hearings on such
1823 plans and, in consultation with the Department of Emergency Services
1824 and Public Protection, the Department of Public Health and the joint
1825 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1826 matters relating to public utilities, revise such plans to the extent
1827 necessary to provide properly for the public convenience, necessity and
1828 welfare. If the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority revises the
1829 emergency plan of a public service company, telecommunications
1830 company, voice over Internet protocol service provider or municipal
1831 utility, such company, provider or municipal utility shall file a copy of
1832 the revised plan with each municipality located within the service area
1833 of the company, provider or municipal utility. Any information
1834 provided in any such plan shall be considered confidential, not subject
1835 to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in
1836 section 1-200, and any such information shall not be transmitted to any
1837 person except as needed to comply with this section.

1838 [(c)] (e) At the discretion of the Commissioner of Emergency Services
1839 and Public Protection or after an emergency or major disaster is declared
1840 in the state by the Governor under the laws of this state or by the
1841 President of the United States under federal law, each telephone
1842 company, certified telecommunications provider, holder of a certificate

1843 of video franchise authority or holder of a certificate of cable franchise
1844 authority, as those terms are defined in section 16-1, as amended by this
1845 act, with more than twenty-five thousand subscribers, shall provide a
1846 representative to staff the emergency operations center of an affected
1847 electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by
1848 this act, as needed to ensure communication and coordination during
1849 emergency response and restoration efforts.

1850 Sec. 23. Section 16-32l of the general statutes is repealed and the
1851 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1852 (a) For the purposes of this section:

1853 (1) "Emergency" means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high
1854 water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, landslide, mudslide,
1855 snowstorm, drought, wildfire or fire explosion that results in sixty-nine
1856 per cent or less of the electric distribution company's customers
1857 experiencing an outage at the period of peak electrical demand;

1858 (2) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as
1859 provided in section 16-1, as amended by this act; and

1860 (3) "After the occurrence of an emergency" means the conclusion of
1861 the emergency, as determined by the authority in its discretion, through
1862 a review of the following: (A) The time when the electric distribution
1863 company could first deploy resources safely in its service territory; (B)
1864 the first of any official declarations concerning the end of the emergency;
1865 or (C) the expiration of the first of any National Weather Service
1866 warning applicable to the service territory.

1867 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, on
1868 and after July 1, 2021, each electric distribution company shall provide
1869 to residential customers of such company a credit of twenty-five dollars,
1870 on the balance of such customer's account, for each day of distribution-
1871 system service outage that occurs for such customers for more than
1872 ninety-six consecutive hours after the occurrence of an emergency.

1873 (c) Any costs incurred by an electric distribution company pursuant
1874 to this section shall not be recoverable.

1875 (d) Not later than fourteen calendar days after the occurrence of an
1876 emergency, an electric distribution company may petition the authority
1877 for a waiver of the requirements of this section. Any petition for a waiver
1878 made under this subsection shall include the severity of the emergency,
1879 line and restoration crew safety issues and conditions on the ground,
1880 and shall be conducted as a contested case proceeding. The burden of
1881 proving that such waiver is reasonable and warranted shall be on the
1882 electric distribution company. In determining whether to grant such
1883 waiver, the authority shall consider whether the electric distribution
1884 company received approval and reasonable funding allowances, as
1885 determined by the authority, to meet infrastructure resiliency efforts to
1886 improve such company's performance.

1887 (e) No electric distribution company shall require any line and
1888 restoration crew member to work in unsafe conditions to avoid
1889 providing credits to customer accounts pursuant to subsection (b) of this
1890 section or for any other reason. No line or restoration crew member
1891 employed by such company may be disciplined, terminated, have
1892 wages withheld or otherwise be punished solely on the basis that such
1893 employee caused the company to fail to restore a distribution system
1894 outage within the ninety-six-hour period specified in subsection (b) of
1895 this section.

1896 [(e)] (f) On or before January 1, 2021, the Public Utilities Regulatory
1897 Authority shall initiate a proceeding to consider the implementation of
1898 the residential customer credit and waiver provisions of this section and
1899 establish circumstances, standards and methodologies applicable to
1900 each electric distribution company and necessary to implement the
1901 provisions of this section, including any modifications to the ninety-six-
1902 consecutive-hour standard in subsection (b) of this section. The
1903 authority shall issue a final decision in such proceeding on or before July
1904 1, 2021.

1905 Sec. 24. Section 16-32m of the general statutes is repealed and the
1906 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1907 (a) For the purposes of this section:

1908 (1) "Emergency" means any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high
1909 water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, landslide, mudslide,
1910 snowstorm, drought, wildfire or fire explosion that results in sixty-nine
1911 per cent or less of the electric distribution company's customers
1912 experiencing an outage at the period of peak electrical demand;

1913 (2) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as
1914 provided in section 16-1, as amended by this act; and

1915 (3) "After the occurrence of an emergency" means the conclusion of
1916 the emergency, as determined by the authority in its discretion, through
1917 a review of the following: (A) The time when the electric distribution
1918 company could first deploy resources safely in its service territory; (B)
1919 the first of any official declarations concerning the end of the emergency;
1920 or (C) the expiration of the first of any National Weather Service
1921 warning applicable to the service territory.

1922 (b) On and after July 1, 2021, each electric distribution company shall
1923 provide to each residential customer compensation in an amount of two
1924 hundred fifty dollars, in the aggregate, for any medication and food that
1925 expires or spoils due to a distribution-system service outage that lasts
1926 more than ninety-six consecutive hours in duration after the occurrence
1927 of an emergency.

1928 (c) Any costs incurred by an electric distribution company pursuant
1929 to this section shall not be recoverable.

1930 (d) Not later than fourteen calendar days after the occurrence of an
1931 emergency, an electric distribution company may petition the authority
1932 for a waiver of the requirements of this section. Any petition for a waiver
1933 made under this subsection shall include the severity of the emergency,
1934 line and restoration crew safety issues and conditions on the ground,

1935 and shall be conducted as a contested case proceeding. The burden of
1936 proving that such waiver is reasonable and warranted shall be on the
1937 electric distribution company. In determining whether to grant such
1938 waiver, the authority shall consider whether the electric distribution
1939 company received approval and reasonable funding allowances, as
1940 determined by the authority, to meet infrastructure resiliency efforts to
1941 improve such company's performance.

1942 (e) No electric distribution company shall require any line and
1943 restoration crew member to work in unsafe conditions to avoid
1944 providing credits to customer accounts pursuant to subsection (b) of this
1945 section or for any other reason. No line or restoration crew member
1946 employed by such company may be disciplined, terminated, have
1947 wages withheld or otherwise be punished solely on the basis that such
1948 employee caused the company to fail to restore a distribution system
1949 outage within the ninety-six-hour period specified in subsection (b) of
1950 this section.

1951 [(e)] (f) On or before January 1, 2021, the Public Utilities Regulatory
1952 Authority shall initiate a proceeding to consider the implementation of
1953 the compensation reimbursement and waiver provisions of this section
1954 and establish circumstances, standards and methodologies applicable to
1955 each electric distribution company and necessary to implement the
1956 provisions of this section, including any modifications to the ninety-six-
1957 consecutive-hour standard in subsection (b) of this section. The
1958 authority shall issue a final decision in such proceeding on or before July
1959 1, 2021.

1960 Sec. 25. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section
1961 and section 26 of this act:

1962 (1) "Advanced conductor" means any conductor material, design or
1963 technology that (A) improves the electrical performance of electrical
1964 conductors in comparison to traditional aluminum-conductor steel-
1965 reinforced cable, and (B) optimizes attributes such as current-carrying
1966 capacity, thermal performance, weight, sag, durability, corrosion

1967 resistance and efficiency, using materials such as high-conductivity
1968 alloys and conductor designs such as trapezoidal designs;

1969 (2) "Advanced power flow control" means any hardware or software
1970 technologies used to push or pull electric power in a manner that
1971 balances electric lines that are either exceeding capacity or are
1972 underutilized within the distribution or transmission system;

1973 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Energy and
1974 Environmental Protection;

1975 (4) "Dynamic line rating" means any hardware or software
1976 technologies used to update the calculated thermal limits of existing
1977 distribution or transmission lines in the state based on real-time and
1978 forecasted weather conditions;

1979 (5) "Electric distribution company" and "regional independent system
1980 operator" have the same meanings as provided in section 16-1 of the
1981 general statutes, as amended by this act;

1982 (6) "Grid-enhancing technology" means any hardware or software
1983 technology that increases the capacity of, or enables enhanced or more
1984 efficient performance from, the electric distribution or transmission
1985 system in the state, including, but not limited to, dynamic line rating,
1986 advanced power flow control, topology optimization and energy
1987 storage when used as a distribution or transmission resource;

1988 (7) "Transmission owner" means any person or entity that owns,
1989 operates and maintains, or seeks to construct, an electric transmission
1990 facility in the state and that is not an electric distribution company;

1991 (8) "Materially modify" means any construction activity relating to a
1992 facility described in subdivision (1) or (4) of subsection (a) of section 16-
1993 50i of the general statutes with an estimated cost of not less than twenty-
1994 five million dollars. "Materially modify" does not include construction
1995 activities related to an emergency condition that causes a disruption of
1996 power or other unplanned loss of an essential transmission asset

1997 function that requires immediate rectification;

1998 (9) "Nontransmission alternative" means an electric grid investment
1999 or project that uses nontraditional transmission and distribution
2000 solutions, including, but not limited to, distributed generation, energy
2001 storage, energy efficiency demand response and grid software and
2002 controls, to defer or replace the need for specific equipment upgrades,
2003 such as transmission and distribution lines or transformers, by reducing
2004 electric load at a substation or circuit level; and

2005 (10) "Topology optimization" means any hardware or software
2006 technology that identifies reconfigurations of the distribution or
2007 transmission grid in the state to enable the routing of power flows
2008 around congested or overloaded elements of the electric grid.

2009 (b) (1) Any electric distribution company or transmission owner that
2010 seeks to construct or materially modify any facility described in
2011 subdivision (1) or (4) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general
2012 statutes, shall, in addition to the primary proposed project for such
2013 construction or material modification, develop at least one project
2014 alternative to such construction or modification that (A) utilizes an
2015 advanced conductor unless the primary proposed project incorporates
2016 an advanced conductor, and (B) utilizes grid-enhancing technology or
2017 nontransmission alternative technology, applicable in whole or in part,
2018 to such construction or material modification.

2019 (2) Such company or owner shall submit each project alternative
2020 required under subdivision (1) of this subsection with any application
2021 or petition submitted by such company or owner to the Connecticut
2022 Siting Council concerning such construction or material modification. If
2023 any such project alternative is not preferred by such company or owner,
2024 such company or owner shall provide a detailed, written explanation
2025 comparing the cost-effectiveness and appropriateness of the project
2026 alternative with such project preferred by such company or owner and
2027 submit such explanation with such application.

2028 (3) If any project alternative submitted pursuant to this subsection
2029 proposes to utilize any advanced conductor, grid-enhancing technology
2030 or nontransmission alternative, and such project alternative (A) is not
2031 less cost effective than the project preferred by such company or owner,
2032 (B) provides the same or increased electric system reliability benefits to
2033 solve the identified need in comparison to such preferred project, and
2034 (C) has similar environmental and community impacts as such
2035 preferred project, as determined by the Connecticut Siting Council, the
2036 council shall give preference to such project alternative when
2037 determining whether to approve such preferred project or project
2038 alternative.

2039 (4) An electric distribution company may seek a waiver of the
2040 requirements of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) in this section, in whole
2041 or in part, if (A) the use of advanced conductors, grid-enhancing
2042 technologies or nontransmission alternative technologies in a project to
2043 construct or materially modify any facility described in subdivision (1)
2044 or (4) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes is
2045 impossible or impracticable to solve an identified need, (B) such
2046 proposed project is subject to a regional transmission planning or
2047 review process approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory
2048 Commission that adequately considers the implementation of such
2049 conductors or technologies, or (C) a project has been evaluated by the
2050 commissioner and the Office of Consumer Counsel pursuant to
2051 subsection (d) of this section. To obtain such waiver, such company shall
2052 submit a waiver application to the commissioner in a form and manner
2053 prescribed by the commissioner. Such waiver application shall specify
2054 the conditions that satisfy the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B) or
2055 (C) of this subdivision. The commissioner, after consultation with the
2056 Office of Consumer Counsel, may waive the requirement to submit such
2057 alternative or alternatives pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b)
2058 of this section to the Connecticut Siting Council. The commissioner shall
2059 accept or deny a waiver application submitted pursuant to this
2060 subdivision not more than sixty days after receipt. Any such application
2061 not accepted or rejected by the commissioner within said sixty-day

2062 period shall be deemed granted.

2063 (5) An electric distribution company may request, and the
2064 commissioner may grant, a revocable general waiver of the
2065 requirements of this subsection for any projects subject to a regional
2066 transmission planning or review process approved by the Federal
2067 Energy Regulatory Commission that adequately considers advanced
2068 conductors, grid-enhancing technologies or nontransmission alternative
2069 technologies. The commissioner shall accept or deny a waiver
2070 application submitted pursuant to this subdivision not more than sixty
2071 days after receipt.

2072 (c) Each electric distribution company and transmission owner shall
2073 include in the annual report required by subsection (a) of section 16-50r
2074 of the general statutes: (1) A schedule of any planned construction or
2075 material modification of any facility described in subdivision (1) or (4)
2076 of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes for the next ten
2077 years, including a description, as appropriate for the project's current
2078 development stage, and, to the extent available, of the need for and
2079 scope of the project, cost estimates, whether and how any advanced
2080 conductor, grid-enhancing technologies or nontransmission alternative
2081 technologies may be considered to address the identified need, and any
2082 other information reasonably requested by the commissioner or the
2083 Office of Consumer Counsel that pertains to the projects identified in
2084 the annual report, (2) data concerning any construction or material
2085 modification of any facility described in subdivision (1) or (4) of
2086 subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes placed in service
2087 by such company in the year preceding such report, including both final
2088 costs, to the extent available, and estimated costs of the project at each
2089 relevant design stage, (3) the original estimated in-service date of the
2090 facility, and (4) any other information reasonably requested by the
2091 commissioner or the Office of Consumer Counsel pertaining to projects
2092 disclosed in such report. For the first filing after the effective date of this
2093 section, each electric distribution company shall provide the
2094 information required by subdivision (2) of this subsection for any

2095 facility placed into service by such company or owner on or after
2096 January 1, 2022. To the extent any such information is unavailable, the
2097 electric distribution company shall notify the commissioner and the
2098 Office of Consumer Counsel and attempt to reach a resolution
2099 acceptable to each party concerning the request for information.

2100 (d) (1) Not more than one hundred eighty days after any annual filing
2101 required pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the commissioner, in
2102 consultation with the Office of Consumer Counsel, shall determine and
2103 notify an electric distribution company whether any facility listed for
2104 construction or material modification requires further evaluation,
2105 considering factors including, but not limited to, (A) whether the
2106 proposed facility is subject to a transmission planning or review process
2107 of the regional independent system operator or a substantially similar
2108 process, (B) the age or condition of the underlying facility, (C) the scope
2109 and estimated cost of the proposed project, (D) whether the proposed
2110 project is responsive to needs identified through proactive transmission
2111 planning by the regional independent system operator, and (E) whether
2112 and how advanced conductors, grid-enhancing technologies and
2113 nontransmission alternatives: (i) Are proposed to be utilized in the
2114 proposed project, (ii) can reduce environmental or aesthetic impacts,
2115 and (iii) can feasibly solve the underlying need identified by the electric
2116 distribution company in part or in whole. Prior to determining that a
2117 project to construct or materially modify a facility requires further
2118 evaluation pursuant to this subdivision, the commissioner and Office of
2119 Consumer Counsel shall provide the electric distribution company with
2120 the opportunity to provide evidence that such project requires no
2121 further evaluation pursuant to this subdivision.

2122 (2) If an evaluation is conducted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
2123 subsection, upon notice to the electric distribution company, the
2124 commissioner and the Office of Consumer Counsel shall evaluate a
2125 proposed project based upon factors including: (A) The reasonableness
2126 of the need identified by the electric distribution company justifying the
2127 proposed facility; (B) the reasonableness of the proposed scope of the

2128 project, including the timing of the proposed investments; (C) whether
2129 the electric distribution company's proposed solution is the most cost-
2130 effective solution to the identified need or whether alternative solutions,
2131 including advanced conductors, grid-enhancing technologies or
2132 nontransmission alternatives, exist that could more cost-effectively
2133 provide the same or increased electric system reliability benefits to
2134 resolve the identified need in whole or in part; (D) the costs of the
2135 proposed project and any potential alternatives identified as part of the
2136 evaluation; (E) whether cost-effective opportunities exist for the
2137 proposed project to be modified to account for future demand growth
2138 or other variables that could mitigate the need for the electric
2139 distribution company to conduct construction activities on the same
2140 facility prior to the end of the useful life; and (F) any other factors that
2141 the commissioner or the Office of Consumer Counsel reasonably
2142 determine are necessary to evaluate for a specific project.

2143 (3) Not less than twice per year, the commissioner and the Office of
2144 Consumer Counsel shall meet with each electric distribution company
2145 to discuss and receive input on any facilities that are currently under
2146 evaluation pursuant to this section.

2147 (4) (A) The commissioner and the Office of Consumer Counsel shall
2148 jointly prepare a report detailing the factors for evaluation listed in
2149 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

2150 (B) Any evaluation by the department or the Office of Consumer
2151 Counsel and any draft report resulting from that evaluation must be
2152 completed and shared with the electric distribution companies no later
2153 than ninety days prior to an electric distribution company's filing of an
2154 application or petition before the Connecticut Siting Council; provided,
2155 however, that the electric distribution company informs the department
2156 and the Office of Consumer Counsel of the anticipated filing date not
2157 less than twelve months in advance of such filing date.

2158 (C) The commissioner shall file any final report developed pursuant
2159 to this subsection in the relevant proceeding of the Connecticut Siting

2160 Council concerning the proposed project. The Connecticut Siting
2161 Council shall give appropriate consideration to such report in making
2162 its determination on the proposed project.

2163 (5) An electric distribution company may request, and the
2164 commissioner may grant, a revocable general waiver of the
2165 requirements of this subsection for any projects subject to a regional
2166 transmission planning or review process approved by the Federal
2167 Energy Regulatory Commission. The commissioner shall accept or deny
2168 a waiver application submitted pursuant to this subdivision not more
2169 than sixty days after receipt.

2170 (e) Each electric distribution company or transmission owner shall
2171 provide data, communications and information requested by the
2172 commissioner or the Office of Consumer Counsel in connection with
2173 any evaluation pursuant to this section, subject to enforcement under
2174 section 22a-6 of the general statutes. Responses to any such requests
2175 shall be shared with both the department and the Office of Consumer
2176 Counsel.

2177 (f) Beginning on January 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter, each
2178 electric distribution company and transmission owner shall file a report
2179 concerning their compliance with the provisions of this section with the
2180 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. The authority shall transmit a
2181 copy of each such report to the regional independent system operator,
2182 as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
2183 and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
2184 statutes, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
2185 cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology.

2186 (g) Any proprietary commercial or proprietary financial information
2187 of an electric distribution company or transmission owner provided
2188 pursuant to this section shall be confidential and protected by the
2189 commissioner and the Office of Consumer Counsel and be exempt from
2190 public disclosure pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the
2191 general statutes.

2192 Sec. 26. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) In any base rate or capital
2193 improvement proceeding before the Public Utilities Regulatory
2194 Authority, an electric distribution company shall submit a report to the
2195 authority that analyzes the cost-effectiveness of, and projected
2196 timetables for, deploying grid-enhancing technologies, advanced
2197 conductors, energy storage or other non-wire alternatives relevant to
2198 such company's operations or capital investments. Such report may
2199 include, but need not be limited to, proposed performance incentive
2200 mechanisms for the cost-effective deployment of such technologies,
2201 conductors or storage. The authority may approve the deployment of
2202 such technologies, conductors or storage, with or without performance
2203 incentive mechanisms, if the authority deems such technologies,
2204 conductors or storage are cost effective.

2205 Sec. 27. Subsection (c) of section 16-18a of the general statutes is
2206 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
2207 *1, 2025*):

2208 (c) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, [in
2209 consultation with] the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and the
2210 Office of Consumer Counsel [,] may, respectively, retain consultants to
2211 assist [its] the staff of the department, authority or office by providing
2212 expertise in areas in which staff expertise does not currently exist or to
2213 supplement staff expertise for any proceeding before or in any
2214 negotiation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the
2215 United States Department of Energy, the United States Nuclear
2216 Regulatory Commission, the United States Securities and Exchange
2217 Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal
2218 Communications Commission or the United States Department of
2219 Justice. [The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in consultation with
2220 the Office of Consumer Counsel, may retain consultants to assist its staff
2221 by providing expertise in areas in which staff expertise does not
2222 currently exist or to supplement staff expertise for any proceeding
2223 before or in any negotiation with the Federal Communications
2224 Commission.] All reasonable and proper expenses of any such

2225 consultants shall be borne by the public service companies, certified
2226 telecommunications providers, holders of a certificate of video franchise
2227 authority, electric suppliers or gas registrants affected by the decisions
2228 of such proceeding and shall be paid at such times and in such manner
2229 as the authority directs, provided such expenses (1) shall be apportioned
2230 in proportion to the revenues of each affected entity as reported to the
2231 authority pursuant to section 16-49 for the most recent fiscal year, and
2232 (2) shall not exceed two and one-half million dollars per calendar year,
2233 including any appeals thereof, unless the authority finds good cause for
2234 exceeding the limit. The authority shall recognize all such expenses as
2235 proper business expenses of the affected entities for ratemaking
2236 purposes pursuant to section 16-19e, if applicable.

2237 Sec. 28. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
2238 section, "electric distribution company" and "regional independent
2239 system operator" have the same meanings as provided in section 16-1 of
2240 the general statutes, as amended by this act.

2241 (b) On and after the effective date of this section, no electric
2242 distribution company shall own or control transmission facilities, as
2243 defined in subdivisions (1) or (4) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the
2244 general statutes and located in the state unless such company
2245 participates in the regional independent system operator.

2246 Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

2247 (1) "Meeting" means any committee, user group, task force or other
2248 part of the regional transmission organization in which votes are taken;

2249 (2) "Recorded vote" means a vote that is tabulated, either individually
2250 or as part of a sector, for any purpose at a meeting, regardless of (A)
2251 whether the vote represents a final position of any person casting the
2252 vote, or (B) the decision-making authority of those voting; and

2253 (3) "Electric distribution company" and "regional independent system
2254 operator" have the same meanings as provided in section 16-1 of the
2255 general statutes, as amended by this act.

2256 (b) (1) On or before February first annually, each electric distribution
2257 company shall submit to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority a
2258 report on each recorded vote cast by the electric distribution company
2259 or, subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection, a corporate affiliate of
2260 the electric distribution company located in the state at a meeting of the
2261 regional independent system operator during the preceding calendar
2262 year.

2263 (2) The report shall include (A) all recorded votes cast by the electric
2264 distribution company, regardless of whether the vote is otherwise
2265 disclosed, (B) all recorded votes cast by a corporate affiliate of the
2266 electric distribution company if such company itself did not vote on the
2267 matter, and (C) a brief description explaining how each vote cast by the
2268 electric distribution company or its corporate affiliate is in the interest
2269 of the public, as determined by the electric distribution company.

2270 Sec. 30. Subsection (e) of section 16a-3m of the general statutes is
2271 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
2272 *1, 2025*):

2273 (e) (1) Any solicitation issued pursuant to subsection (d) of this
2274 section for zero-carbon electricity generating resources, including, but
2275 not limited to, eligible nuclear power generating facilities, hydropower,
2276 Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, as amended
2277 by this act, and energy storage systems, shall be for resources delivered
2278 into the control area of the regional independent system operator, as
2279 defined in section 16-1, as amended by this act, and any agreement
2280 entered into pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be in the
2281 best interest of ratepayers. If the commissioner finds proposals received
2282 pursuant to such solicitations to be in the best interest of ratepayers, the
2283 commissioner may select any such proposal or proposals, provided (A)
2284 the total annual energy output of any proposals selected, in the
2285 aggregate, shall be not more than twelve million megawatt hours of
2286 electricity, (B) any agreement entered into pursuant to this subdivision
2287 with an eligible nuclear power generating facility or hydropower shall
2288 be for a period of not less than three years and not more than ten years,

2289 or the contract term selected by at least one other state entering into an
2290 agreement pursuant to this subsection if such term is in the best interest
2291 of the ratepayers, and (C) any agreement entered into pursuant to this
2292 subdivision with Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section
2293 16-1, as amended by this act, and energy storage systems shall be for a
2294 period of not more than twenty years.

2295 (2) If the commissioner has made the determination and finding
2296 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall,
2297 on behalf of all customers of electric distribution companies, direct the
2298 electric distribution companies to enter into agreements for energy,
2299 capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof,
2300 from proposals submitted pursuant to this subdivision.

2301 (3) (A) Any agreement entered into pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
2302 subsection shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities
2303 Regulatory Authority. The electric distribution company shall file an
2304 application for the approval of any such agreement with the authority.
2305 The authority's review shall commence upon the filing of the signed
2306 power purchase agreement with the authority. The authority shall
2307 approve agreements that it determines [(A)] (i) provide for the delivery
2308 of adequate and reliable products and services, for which there is a clear
2309 public need, at a just and reasonable price, [(B)] (ii) are prudent and cost
2310 effective, and [(C)] (iii) that the respondent to the solicitation has the
2311 technical, financial and managerial capabilities to perform pursuant to
2312 such agreement. For any eligible nuclear power generating facility
2313 selected in any solicitation described in subsection (g) of this section, the
2314 authority shall require any such agreement to be conditioned upon the
2315 approval of such a power purchase agreement or other agreement for
2316 energy, capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination
2317 thereof, with such eligible nuclear power generating facility, in at least
2318 two other states, by the applicable officials of such states or by electric
2319 utilities or other entities designated by the applicable officials of such
2320 states. The authority shall issue a decision not later than one hundred
2321 eighty days after such filing. If the authority does not issue a decision

2322 within one hundred eighty days after such filing, the agreement shall be
2323 deemed approved.

2324 (B) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or the
2325 procurement plan adopted pursuant to section 16-244m, as amended by
2326 this act, an electric distribution company may, in consultation with the
2327 procurement manager of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and
2328 the Office of Consumer Counsel, elect to use, for a duration of time
2329 established in consultation with the procurement manager, any portion
2330 of the energy, capacity and other products, or any combination thereof
2331 that such company purchases from an eligible nuclear power generating
2332 facility pursuant to an agreement entered into pursuant to this
2333 subsection for the provision of standard service by such company if such
2334 company, in consultation with the procurement manager and the Office
2335 of Consumer Counsel, concludes such usage is in the best interest of
2336 standard service customers. An electric distribution company that elects
2337 to use such energy, capacity or products in the provision of standard
2338 service shall seek approval from the Public Utilities Regulatory
2339 Authority to incorporate any such agreement into standard service. The
2340 authority may establish reporting standards related to any
2341 determination of whether the use of such agreements is in the best
2342 interest of standard service customers.

2343 (C) An electric distribution company that elects to use such energy,
2344 capacity or products in the provision of standard service shall, in
2345 consultation with the authority and the Office of Consumer Counsel,
2346 specify the (i) quantity of energy, capacity and any other products such
2347 company shall use to serve standard service customers, (ii) duration of
2348 such usage, and (iii) price for such energy, capacity and any other
2349 products that will be recovered through generation service charges
2350 pursuant to section 16-244c.

2351 (D) If any energy, capacity or other products purchased by such
2352 company under any such agreement are used to serve standard service
2353 customers, the cost of such energy, capacity or other products shall be
2354 recovered through generation service charges pursuant to section 16-

2355 244c. Any certificates issued by the New England Power Pool
2356 Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy source
2357 procured by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section
2358 that are not used to serve standard service customers shall be disposed
2359 of pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (g) of
2360 section 16-245a, as amended by this act.

2361 (E) (i) The [net] remaining costs of any such agreement, including
2362 costs incurred by the electric distribution company under the agreement
2363 and reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution company in
2364 connection with the agreement, net of all revenues from any sale of
2365 energy, capacity or other products purchased under such agreement,
2366 including, but not limited to, any revenues recovered pursuant to
2367 subparagraph (D) of this subdivision, shall be recovered on a timely
2368 basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of electric
2369 rates for all customers of the electric distribution company, [. Any] and
2370 (ii) any net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance
2371 with long-term contracts entered into pursuant to this subsection, or
2372 pursuant to any other provision of the general statutes, that are not
2373 associated with the provision of standard service, shall be credited to
2374 customers through the same nonbypassable fully reconciling rate
2375 component for all customers of the contracting electric distribution
2376 company.

2377 (F) No provision of this subdivision shall be construed to amend or
2378 alter the terms and conditions of any such agreement approved by the
2379 authority.

2380 Sec. 31. Section 16-244m of the general statutes is repealed and the
2381 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

2382 (a) (1) On or before January 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, the
2383 procurement manager of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in
2384 consultation with each electric distribution company, the Consumer
2385 Counsel, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
2386 and others at the procurement manager's discretion, including, but not

2387 limited to, [the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,]
2388 a municipal energy cooperative established pursuant to chapter 101a,
2389 other than entities, individuals and companies or their affiliates
2390 potentially involved in bidding on standard service, shall develop a plan
2391 for the procurement of electric generation services and related
2392 wholesale electricity market products [that will enable each electric
2393 distribution company to manage a portfolio of contracts to reduce the
2394 average cost of standard service while maintaining standard service cost
2395 volatility within reasonable levels. Each Procurement Plan] with the
2396 goal of reducing the average cost of standard service for standard
2397 service customers while minimizing the cost volatility in the
2398 procurement of such services or products. The procurement plan (A)
2399 shall provide for the option of competitive solicitation for load-
2400 following electric service, [and may] (B) shall include a provision [for
2401 the use of] requiring each electric distribution company, individually or
2402 jointly, to develop and maintain the ability to engage in dynamic market
2403 purchases for not less than twenty-five per cent of the standard service
2404 load in a flexible manner designed to allow such company to purchase
2405 energy products during periods of lower energy cost, subject to a risk
2406 mitigation provision pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
2407 section, based on the active monitoring of day-ahead and real-time
2408 energy markets, (C) may include any other contracts, including, but not
2409 limited to, contracts for generation or other electricity market products
2410 and financial contracts, [and] (D) may provide for the use of varying
2411 lengths of contracts, and (E) may include the use of energy, capacity or
2412 other electric products approved in section 16a-3m, as amended by this
2413 act. If such plan includes the purchase of full requirements contracts, it
2414 shall include an explanation of why such purchases are in the best
2415 interests of standard service customers. For the purposes of this section,
2416 "dynamic market purchases" means the purchase of energy, capacity or
2417 other market products necessary to serve standard service electric load
2418 using market purchases in the regional independent system operator
2419 markets, financial contracts or other variable procurement techniques.

2420 (2) [All reasonable costs associated with the development of the

2421 Procurement Plan by the authority shall be recoverable through the
2422 assessment in section 16-49. All electric distribution companies'
2423 reasonable costs associated with the development of the Procurement
2424 Plan shall be recoverable through a reconciling bypassable component
2425 of the electric rates as determined by the authority.] On or before
2426 February 15, 2026, in consultation with the electric distribution
2427 companies, the Consumer Counsel, and the Commissioner of Energy
2428 and Environmental Protection, the procurement manager shall submit
2429 to the authority a proposed amendment of such procurement plan for
2430 approval or modification. Such proposed amendment shall (A) include,
2431 but not be limited to, modifications regarding the potential use of (i)
2432 multiple competitive solicitations each year for the procurement of
2433 energy at intervals identified in the procurement plan, or as determined
2434 from time to time by the procurement manager to serve the best interests
2435 of the ratepayers, provided such determination is in accordance with the
2436 applicable provisions of the procurement plan, (ii) contracts with
2437 durations not exceeding three years for the procurement of energy, and
2438 (iii) fixed-price energy supply contracts in addition to full requirements
2439 contracts, (B) establish guidelines for each electric distribution company
2440 concerning the implementation of the procurement plan, including (i)
2441 the requirement that each such company develop and maintain the
2442 capacity to engage in dynamic market purchases, and (ii) direction to
2443 each electric distribution company regarding the circumstances under
2444 which dynamic market purchases could be exercised, including a
2445 requirement that the ability to pursue the procurement methodologies
2446 as described in subdivision (1) of this subsection incrementally increase
2447 or decrease over time based on any demonstrated benefit to ratepayers,
2448 and (C) include a risk mitigation provision pursuant to subdivision (1)
2449 of subsection (b) of this section. The authority shall initiate an
2450 uncontested proceeding to review and modify or approve the
2451 amendment to the procurement plan submitted pursuant to this
2452 subdivision.

2453 (3) If the procurement manager determines that an interim
2454 amendment to, or a temporary nonconformity with, the procurement

2455 plan may substantially further the goal of effectively procuring standard
2456 service while minimizing standard service cost volatility in relation to a
2457 specific procurement, the procurement manager shall adopt a waiver
2458 from the procurement plan applicable exclusively to such procurement.
2459 Upon the adoption of such waiver, the procurement manager shall
2460 immediately file notice of such interim amendment or nonconformity
2461 and the adoption of such waiver with the authority. Upon receipt of
2462 such notice from the procurement manager, the authority shall provide
2463 notice of the proposed waiver to the Office of Consumer Counsel, the
2464 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and the electric
2465 distribution companies. Upon receipt of such notice from the authority,
2466 the counsel, commissioner or any such company may submit comments
2467 concerning such waiver to the authority not later than two business days
2468 after the receipt of such notice. Such waiver shall be deemed adopted by
2469 the authority if the authority takes no action on such waiver not later
2470 than three business days after the comment period concerning such
2471 waiver for the counsel, commissioner and companies has expired.

2472 (b) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
2473 the procurement plan shall include a risk mitigation provision that
2474 defines the acceptable parameters for such dynamic market purchases,
2475 including guidelines for the use of financial contracts. Each electric
2476 distribution company shall comply with the provisions of the
2477 procurement plan, including any amendments to such plan or waivers
2478 of provisions of such plan adopted by the authority. Any review
2479 concerning the prudence of an electric distribution company's dynamic
2480 market purchases shall be conducted by the authority in a contested
2481 proceeding and shall be limited to an evaluation of such company's
2482 adherence to the dynamic market purchase requirements of the
2483 procurement plan.

2484 (2) Costs incurred under this section shall be recovered as follows:

2485 (A) All reasonable costs associated with the development and
2486 implementation of the procurement plan by the authority shall be
2487 recoverable through the assessment imposed pursuant to section 16-49.

2488 (B) All reasonable and prudent operating costs incurred by an electric
2489 distribution company in the development and implementation of the
2490 procurement plan shall be recoverable on a timely basis through a
2491 reconciling bypassable component of the electric rates as determined by
2492 the authority, including incremental staffing and financial systems
2493 providing the functional capacity and expertise to support dynamic
2494 market purchases.

2495 (C) All costs associated with the purchase of the actual net costs of
2496 procuring and providing standard service pursuant to this section shall
2497 be recovered in electric rates on a timely basis in accordance with section
2498 16-244c.

2499 (c) The procurement plan shall identify the method that shall be used
2500 by an electric distribution company to develop the proxy price for that
2501 portion of standard service procured through dynamic market
2502 purchases. Each electric distribution company shall pay for the costs of
2503 such dynamic market purchases in accordance with the terms of the
2504 applicable contracts. The actual costs of dynamic market purchases shall
2505 be reconciled to the proxy price for such costs, and the actual net cost of
2506 such dynamic market purchases shall be recovered in electric rates on a
2507 timely basis in accordance with section 16-244c.

2508 [(b)] (d) The procurement manager shall, not less than [quarterly]
2509 annually, prepare a written report on the implementation of the
2510 [Procurement Plan] procurement plan. If the procurement manager
2511 finds that an [interim] amendment to the [annual plan might] plan may
2512 substantially further the goals [of reducing the cost or cost volatility of]
2513 to effectively procure standard service, generally, while minimizing the
2514 cost volatility in such procurement, the procurement manager may
2515 petition the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for such an [interim]
2516 amendment. The [Public Utilities Regulatory Authority] authority shall
2517 provide notice of the proposed amendment to the Office of Consumer
2518 Counsel, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
2519 and the electric distribution companies. The Office of Consumer
2520 Counsel, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection

2521 and the electric distribution companies shall have [two] fourteen
2522 business days from the date of such notice to request an uncontested
2523 proceeding and a technical meeting of the [Public Utilities Regulatory
2524 Authority] authority regarding the proposed amendment, [which] and
2525 the authority shall hold such proceeding and meeting, [shall occur] if
2526 requested. [The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority] After such
2527 proceeding and meeting, if requested, the authority may approve,
2528 modify or deny the proposed amendment. [, with such approval,
2529 modification or denial following the technical meeting if one is
2530 requested. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's] The authority's
2531 ruling on the proposed amendment shall occur [within three business]
2532 not later than ninety days after the technical meeting, if [one] such
2533 meeting is requested, or [within three business] not later than one
2534 hundred twenty days [of] after the expiration of the time for requesting
2535 a technical meeting if no technical meeting is requested. The [Public
2536 Utilities Regulatory Authority] authority may maintain the
2537 confidentiality of the technical meeting to the full extent allowed by law.

2538 [(c)] (e) The costs of procurement for standard service shall be borne
2539 solely by the standard service customers.

2540 [(d)] (f) (1) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority [shall conduct]
2541 may initiate an uncontested proceeding to amend the procurement plan
2542 from time to time. [approve, with any amendments it determines
2543 necessary, the Procurement Plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a)
2544 of this section.]

2545 (2) [The] Not later than April 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
2546 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall submit a report, [annually]
2547 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
2548 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
2549 relating to energy regarding the [Procurement Plan] procurement plan
2550 and its implementation. Any such report may be submitted
2551 [electronically] in conjunction with the report of the authority required
2552 pursuant to section 16-245x.

2553 Sec. 32. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

2554 (1) "Gas company", "electric distribution company" and "participating
2555 municipal electric utility" have the same meanings as provided in
2556 section 16-1 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

2557 (2) "Regional council of governments" means a regional council of
2558 governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-
2559 124p, inclusive, of the general statutes;

2560 (3) "Thermal energy" means heating, or heating and cooling, derived
2561 from (A) sources that do not emit greenhouse gases, or (B) geothermal
2562 energy; and

2563 (4) "Thermal energy network" means all real estate, fixtures and
2564 personal property operated, owned and used or to be used for, or in
2565 connection with or to facilitate, a utility-scale distribution infrastructure
2566 project that supplies thermal energy in the form of piped
2567 noncombustible fluids used for transferring heat into and out of
2568 buildings for any type of heating and cooling process, including, but not
2569 limited to, comfort heating and cooling, domestic hot water and
2570 refrigeration.

2571 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall,
2572 within available appropriations, establish a thermal energy network
2573 grant and loan program to support the development of thermal energy
2574 network projects on the customer's side of the meter. The commissioner
2575 shall develop and issue a request for proposals from eligible recipients
2576 that shall include, but need not be limited to, any local or regional
2577 governmental entity, municipal corporation, regional council of
2578 governments, public authority, state and federally recognized tribe,
2579 electric distribution company, gas company, participating municipal
2580 electric utility, energy improvement district and nonprofit, academic
2581 and private entity seeking to develop a thermal energy network. Any
2582 such eligible recipient may collaborate with any other such eligible
2583 recipient in submitting such proposal.

2584 (c) The commissioner may award grants or loans under the thermal
2585 energy network grant and loan program to any number of eligible
2586 recipients. Such grants and loans may provide: (1) Assistance with
2587 community planning that includes, but is not limited to, thermal energy
2588 network project feasibility, including benefit-cost analyses, (2)
2589 assistance to recipients for the cost of design, engineering services and
2590 infrastructure for any such thermal energy network project, or (3)
2591 nonfederal cost share for grant or loan applications for projects or
2592 programs that include thermal energy networks. The commissioner
2593 may establish any financing mechanism to provide or leverage
2594 additional funding to support the development of thermal energy
2595 network projects. To be eligible for the award of a grant or loan under
2596 this section, an eligible recipient shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of
2597 the commissioner, that such recipient has adopted wage standards
2598 conforming with the requirements of section 31-53 of the general
2599 statutes.

2600 (d) Not later than January first, annually, for a period of three years
2601 after receiving a grant or loan under the thermal energy network grant
2602 and loan program, the recipient of such grant or loan shall submit a
2603 report to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Office of
2604 Consumer Counsel and the Commissioner of Energy and
2605 Environmental Protection and, in accordance with the provisions of
2606 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
2607 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy
2608 and technology. Such report shall include information concerning the
2609 status of such recipient's thermal energy network project.

2610 Sec. 33. Section 22a-136 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2611 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

2612 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Advanced nuclear reactor" has the
2613 same meaning as provided in 42 USC 16271, as amended from time to
2614 time, and (2) "high level nuclear waste" means those aqueous wastes
2615 resulting from the operation of the first cycle of the solvent extraction
2616 system or equivalent and the concentrated wastes of the subsequent

2617 extraction cycles or equivalent in a facility for reprocessing irradiated
2618 reactor fuel and includes spent fuel assemblies prior to fuel
2619 reprocessing.

2620 (b) No construction shall commence on a [fifth] new nuclear power
2621 facility [until the] in the state unless:

2622 (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection finds
2623 that the United States Government, through its authorized agency, has
2624 identified and approved a demonstrable technology or means for the
2625 disposal of high level nuclear waste; [The provisions of this section
2626 shall not apply to construction at any nuclear power generating facility
2627 operating in the state as of October 1, 2022. As used in this section, "high
2628 level nuclear waste" means those aqueous wastes resulting from the
2629 operation of the first cycle of the solvent extraction system or equivalent
2630 and the concentrated wastes of the subsequent extraction cycles or
2631 equivalent in a facility for reprocessing irradiated reactor fuel and shall
2632 include spent fuel assemblies prior to fuel reprocessing.]

2633 (2) The nuclear power facility is proposed to be sited at a nuclear
2634 power generating facility operating in the state as of October 1, 2022; or

2635 (3) The construction is for an advanced nuclear reactor facility and
2636 (A) such facility is sited in a municipality that has consented to such
2637 facility's development through the affirmative vote of such
2638 municipality's legislative body or a referendum held in such
2639 municipality, and (B) any additional municipality within the emergency
2640 planning zone, as determined by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
2641 if the proposed facility consents to such facility's development through
2642 the affirmative vote of such municipality's legislative body or a
2643 referendum held in such municipality.

2644 (c) The entity proposing such new nuclear power facility, including
2645 any advanced nuclear reactor, shall obtain all permits, licenses,
2646 permissions or approvals governing the construction, operation and
2647 funding of the decommissioning of such nuclear power facility as

2648 required by: (1) Any applicable federal statutes, including, but not
2649 limited to, the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, the Energy Reorganization
2650 Act of 1974, the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act
2651 of 1985 and the Energy Policy Act of 1992, as amended from time to time;
2652 (2) any regulations promulgated or enforced by the United States
2653 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, including, but not limited to, those
2654 codified in Title X, Parts 20, 30, 40, 50, 52, 53, 70 and 72 of the Code of
2655 Federal Regulations, as amended from time to time; and (3) any other
2656 federal or state statute, rule or regulation governing the permitting,
2657 licensing, construction, operation or decommissioning of such facility.

2658 Sec. 34. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
2659 "eligible recipient" means (A) a regional governmental entity,
2660 municipality, regional council of governments, public authority, state or
2661 federally recognized tribe or municipal electric utility or cooperative
2662 with a demonstrated interest in hosting advanced nuclear reactors, as
2663 determined by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
2664 Protection, (B) a private entity partnering or interested in partnering
2665 with said entities for the development of advanced nuclear reactors, or
2666 (C) an institution of higher education in the state; and (2) "advanced
2667 nuclear reactor" has the same meaning as provided in 42 USC 16271, as
2668 amended from time to time.

2669 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
2670 establish a competitive advanced nuclear reactor site readiness funding
2671 program. The commissioner may provide funding through the program
2672 in the form of grants or loans to eligible recipients in support of:

2673 (1) Environmental and technical studies required for early site
2674 permitting for advanced nuclear reactors;

2675 (2) Local and regional infrastructure assessments to support the
2676 development of advanced nuclear reactors;

2677 (3) Community engagement and planning initiatives related to
2678 hosting advanced nuclear reactors; and

2679 (4) Other necessary expenses identified by the commissioner to
2680 advance site readiness for advanced nuclear reactors.

2681 (c) The commissioner may use bond funds authorized in support of
2682 the program or federal funds allocated to the state in support of the
2683 program established under this section. In the case of federal funds
2684 allocated for such purposes, the commissioner may revise its advanced
2685 nuclear reactor site readiness grant program criteria to be consistent
2686 with the requirements of the federal funding program criteria. The
2687 commissioner may use said funds to hire a technical consultant to
2688 support the implementation of this section.

2689 (d) For the purposes described in subsection (e) of this section, the
2690 State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to
2691 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in
2692 principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate five million dollars.

2693 (e) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds shall be used by the
2694 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the purpose of
2695 funding grants or loans through the advanced nuclear reactor site
2696 readiness funding program established pursuant to this section.

2697 (f) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
2698 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
2699 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
2700 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
2701 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
2702 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
2703 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
2704 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
2705 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
2706 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
2707 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
2708 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
2709 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
2710 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management

2711 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
2712 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
2713 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
2714 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
2715 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
2716 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
2717 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
2718 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
2719 such principal and interest as the same become due.

2720 Sec. 35. Subsection (a) of section 16a-102 of the general statutes is
2721 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
2722 *1, 2025*):

2723 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
2724 coordinate all atomic development activities in the state. Said
2725 commissioner or [his] the commissioner's designee shall (1) advise the
2726 Governor with respect to atomic industrial development within the
2727 state; (2) act as coordinator of the development and regulatory activities
2728 of the state relating to the industrial and commercial uses of atomic
2729 energy; (3) act as the Governor's designee in matters relating to atomic
2730 energy, including participation in the activities of any committee
2731 formed by the New England states to represent their interests in such
2732 matters and also cooperation with other states and with the government
2733 of the United States; (4) coordinate the studies, recommendations and
2734 proposals of the several departments and agencies of the state required
2735 by section 16a-103 with each other and also with the programs and
2736 activities of the development commission; and (5) act as a point of
2737 contact for public and private stakeholders to assist in compliance with
2738 federal, state and local requirements relevant to atomic development,
2739 including, but not limited to, siting considerations and permitting
2740 requirements. The commissioner shall consult with and review
2741 regulations and procedures of the agencies of the state with respect to
2742 the regulation of sources of radiation to assure consistency and to
2743 prevent unnecessary duplication, inconsistencies or gaps in regulatory

2744 requirements.

2745 Sec. 36. Subdivision (20) of subsection (a) of section 16-1 of the general
2746 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
2747 (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

2748 (20) "Class I renewable energy source" means (A) electricity derived
2749 from (i) solar power, (ii) wind power, (iii) a fuel cell, (iv) geothermal, (v)
2750 [landfill methane gas,] anaerobic digestion or other biogas derived from
2751 biological sources, (vi) thermal electric direct energy conversion from a
2752 certified Class I renewable energy source, (vii) ocean thermal power,
2753 (viii) wave or tidal power, (ix) low emission advanced renewable energy
2754 conversion technologies, including, but not limited to, zero emission
2755 low grade heat power generation systems based on organic oil free
2756 rankine, kalina or other similar nonsteam cycles that use waste heat
2757 from an industrial or commercial process that does not generate
2758 electricity, (x) (I) a run-of-the-river hydropower facility that began
2759 operation after July 1, 2003, has a generating capacity of not more than
2760 sixty megawatts, is not based on a new dam or a dam identified by the
2761 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection as a candidate
2762 for removal, and meets applicable state and federal requirements,
2763 including state dam safety requirements and applicable site-specific
2764 standards for water quality and fish passage, or (II) a run-of-the-river
2765 hydropower facility that received a new license after January 1, 2018,
2766 under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rules pursuant to 18
2767 CFR 16, as amended from time to time, is not based on a new dam or a
2768 dam identified by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
2769 Protection as a candidate for removal, and meets applicable state and
2770 federal requirements, including state dam safety requirements and
2771 applicable site-specific standards for water quality and fish passage, (xi)
2772 a biomass facility, provided such facility has executed an agreement to
2773 provide energy to an electric distribution company prior to the effective
2774 date of this section, that (I) uses sustainable biomass fuel and has an
2775 average emission rate of equal to or less than .075 pounds of nitrogen
2776 oxides per million BTU of heat input for the previous calendar quarter,

2777 [except that energy derived from a biomass facility with] or (II) has a
2778 capacity of less than five hundred kilowatts that began construction
2779 before July 1, 2003, may be considered a Class I renewable energy source
2780 for the duration of such agreement, or (xii) a nuclear power generating
2781 facility constructed on or after October 1, 2023, or (B) any electrical
2782 generation, including distributed generation, generated from a Class I
2783 renewable energy source, provided, on and after January 1, 2014, any
2784 megawatt hours of electricity from a renewable energy source described
2785 under this subparagraph that are claimed or counted by a load-serving
2786 entity, province or state toward compliance with renewable portfolio
2787 standards or renewable energy policy goals in another province or state,
2788 other than the state of Connecticut, shall not be eligible for compliance
2789 with the renewable portfolio standards established pursuant to section
2790 16-245a, as amended by this act;

2791 Sec. 37. Section 16-245a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2792 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

2793 (a) Subject to any modifications required by the Public Utilities
2794 Regulatory Authority for retiring renewable energy certificates on
2795 behalf of all electric ratepayers pursuant to subsection (h) of this section
2796 and sections 16a-3f, 16a-3g, as amended by this act, 16a-3h, as amended
2797 by this act, 16a-3i, as amended by this act, 16a-3j, 16a-3m, as amended
2798 by this act, [and] 16a-3n, as amended by this act, and 16a-3p, as amended
2799 by this act, an electric supplier and an electric distribution company
2800 providing standard service or supplier of last resort service, pursuant to
2801 section 16-244c, shall demonstrate:

2802 (1) On and after January 1, 2006, that not less than two per cent of the
2803 total output or services of any such supplier or distribution company
2804 shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an
2805 additional three per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2806 Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2807 (2) On and after January 1, 2007, not less than three and one-half per
2808 cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or distribution

2809 company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and
2810 an additional three per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2811 Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2812 (3) On and after January 1, 2008, not less than five per cent of the total
2813 output or services of any such supplier or distribution company shall be
2814 generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an additional
2815 three per cent of the total output or services shall be from Class I or Class
2816 II renewable energy sources;

2817 (4) On and after January 1, 2009, not less than six per cent of the total
2818 output or services of any such supplier or distribution company shall be
2819 generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an additional
2820 three per cent of the total output or services shall be from Class I or Class
2821 II renewable energy sources;

2822 (5) On and after January 1, 2010, not less than seven per cent of the
2823 total output or services of any such supplier or distribution company
2824 shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an
2825 additional three per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2826 Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2827 (6) On and after January 1, 2011, not less than eight per cent of the
2828 total output or services of any such supplier or distribution company
2829 shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an
2830 additional three per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2831 Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2832 (7) On and after January 1, 2012, not less than nine per cent of the total
2833 output or services of any such supplier or distribution company shall be
2834 generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an additional
2835 three per cent of the total output or services shall be from Class I or Class
2836 II renewable energy sources;

2837 (8) On and after January 1, 2013, not less than ten per cent of the total
2838 output or services of any such supplier or distribution company shall be
2839 generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an additional

2840 three per cent of the total output or services shall be from Class I or Class
2841 II renewable energy sources;

2842 (9) On and after January 1, 2014, not less than eleven per cent of the
2843 total output or services of any such supplier or distribution company
2844 shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an
2845 additional three per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2846 Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2847 (10) On and after January 1, 2015, not less than twelve and one-half
2848 per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2849 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2850 sources and an additional three per cent of the total output or services
2851 shall be from Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2852 (11) On and after January 1, 2016, not less than fourteen per cent of
2853 the total output or services of any such supplier or distribution company
2854 shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an
2855 additional three per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2856 Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2857 (12) On and after January 1, 2017, not less than fifteen and one-half
2858 per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2859 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2860 sources and an additional three per cent of the total output or services
2861 shall be from Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2862 (13) On and after January 1, 2018, not less than seventeen per cent of
2863 the total output or services of any such supplier or distribution company
2864 shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an
2865 additional four per cent of the total output or services shall be from Class
2866 I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2867 (14) On and after January 1, 2019, not less than nineteen and one-half
2868 per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2869 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2870 sources and an additional four per cent of the total output or services

2871 shall be from Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2872 (15) On and after January 1, 2020, not less than twenty-one per cent
2873 of the total output or services of any such supplier or distribution
2874 company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and
2875 an additional four per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2876 Class I or Class II renewable energy sources, except that for any electric
2877 supplier that has entered into or renewed a retail electric supply contract
2878 on or before May 24, 2018, on and after January 1, 2020, not less than
2879 twenty per cent of the total output or services of any such electric
2880 supplier shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources;

2881 (16) On and after January 1, 2021, not less than twenty-two and one-
2882 half per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2883 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2884 sources and an additional four per cent of the total output or services
2885 shall be from Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2886 (17) On and after January 1, 2022, not less than twenty-four per cent
2887 of the total output or services of any such supplier or distribution
2888 company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and
2889 an additional four per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2890 Class I or Class II renewable energy sources;

2891 (18) On and after January 1, 2023, not less than twenty-six per cent of
2892 the total output or services of any such supplier or distribution company
2893 shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an
2894 additional four per cent of the total output or services shall be from Class
2895 II renewable energy sources;

2896 (19) On and after January 1, 2024, not less than twenty-eight per cent
2897 of the total output or services of any such supplier or distribution
2898 company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and
2899 an additional four per cent of the total output or services shall be from
2900 Class II renewable energy sources;

2901 (20) On and after January 1, 2025, not less than thirty per cent of the

2902 total output or services of any such supplier or distribution company
2903 shall be generated from Class I renewable energy sources and an
2904 additional four per cent of the total output or services shall be from Class
2905 II renewable energy sources;

2906 (21) On and after January 1, 2026, not less than [thirty-two] twenty-
2907 five per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2908 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2909 sources and an additional four per cent of the total output or services
2910 shall be from Class II renewable energy sources;

2911 (22) On and after January 1, 2027, not less than [thirty-four] twenty-
2912 six per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2913 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2914 sources and an additional four per cent of the total output or services
2915 shall be from Class II renewable energy sources;

2916 (23) On and after January 1, 2028, not less than [thirty-six] twenty-
2917 seven per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2918 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2919 sources and an additional four per cent of the total output or services
2920 shall be from Class II renewable energy sources;

2921 (24) On and after January 1, 2029, not less than [thirty-eight] twenty-
2922 eight per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2923 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2924 sources and an additional four per cent of the total output or services
2925 shall be from Class II renewable energy sources;

2926 (25) On and after January 1, 2030, not less than [forty] twenty-nine
2927 per cent of the total output or services of any such supplier or
2928 distribution company shall be generated from Class I renewable energy
2929 sources and an additional four per cent of the total output or services
2930 shall be from Class II renewable energy sources.

2931 (b) (1) An electric supplier or electric distribution company may
2932 satisfy the requirements of this section (A) by purchasing certificates

2933 issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System,
2934 provided the certificates are for (i) energy produced by a generating unit
2935 using Class I or Class II renewable energy sources and the generating
2936 unit is located in the jurisdiction of the regional independent system
2937 operator, or (ii) energy imported into the control area of the regional
2938 independent system operator pursuant to New England Power Pool
2939 Generation Information System Rule 2.7(c), as in effect on January 1,
2940 2006; (B) for those renewable energy certificates under contract to serve
2941 end use customers in the state on or before October 1, 2006, by
2942 participating in a renewable energy trading program within said
2943 jurisdictions as approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;
2944 or (C) by purchasing eligible renewable electricity and associated
2945 attributes from residential customers who are net producers. (2) Not
2946 more than two and one-half per cent of the total output or services of an
2947 electric supplier or electric distribution company shall be generated
2948 from Class I renewable energy sources eligible as described in
2949 subparagraph (A)(x)(II) of subdivision (20) of subsection (a) of section
2950 16-1, as amended by this act.

2951 (c) Any supplier who provides electric generation services solely
2952 from a Class II renewable energy source shall not be required to comply
2953 with the provisions of this section.

2954 (d) An electric supplier or an electric distribution company shall base
2955 its demonstration of generation sources, as required under subsection
2956 (a) of this section on historical data, which may consist of data filed with
2957 the regional independent system operator.

2958 (e) The authority shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
2959 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

2960 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and section 16-244c,
2961 for periods beginning on and after January 1, 2008, each electric
2962 distribution company may procure renewable energy certificates from
2963 Class I, Class II and Class III renewable energy sources through long-
2964 term contracting mechanisms. The electric distribution companies may

2965 enter into long-term contracts for not more than fifteen years to procure
2966 such renewable energy certificates. The electric distribution companies
2967 shall use any renewable energy certificates obtained pursuant to this
2968 section to meet their standard service and supplier of last resort
2969 renewable portfolio standard requirements.

2970 [(g) On or before January 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Energy and
2971 Environmental Protection shall, in developing or modifying an
2972 Integrated Resources Plan in accordance with sections 16a-3a and 16a-
2973 3e, establish a schedule to commence on January 1, 2015, for assigning a
2974 gradually reduced renewable energy credit value to all biomass or
2975 landfill methane gas facilities that qualify as a Class I renewable energy
2976 source pursuant to section 16-1, provided this subsection shall not apply
2977 to anaerobic digestion or other biogas facilities, and further provided
2978 any reduced renewable energy credit value established pursuant to this
2979 section shall not apply to any biomass or landfill methane gas facility
2980 that has entered into a power purchase agreement (1) with an electric
2981 supplier or electric distribution company in the state of Connecticut on
2982 or before June 5, 2013, or (2) executed in accordance with section 16a-3f
2983 or 16a-3h. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
2984 may review the schedule established pursuant to this subsection in
2985 preparation of each subsequent Integrated Resources Plan developed
2986 pursuant to section 16a-3a and make any necessary changes thereto to
2987 ensure that the rate of reductions in renewable energy credit value for
2988 biomass or landfill methane gas facilities is appropriate given the
2989 availability of other Class I renewable energy sources.]

2990 [(h)] (g) The authority, in consultation with the Commissioner of
2991 Energy and Environmental Protection and the Office of Consumer
2992 Counsel, shall initiate a proceeding to establish procedures for the
2993 disposition of renewable energy certificates purchased pursuant to
2994 [section] sections 16-244z, as amended by this act, 16a-3f, 16a-3g, as
2995 amended by this act, 16a-3h, as amended by this act, 16a-3i, as amended
2996 by this act, 16a-3j, 16a-3m, as amended by this act, 16a-3n, as amended
2997 by this act, and 16a-3p, as amended by this act, which may include

2998 procedures for selling renewable energy certificates [consistent with
2999 section 16-244z or, if renewable energy certificates procured pursuant to
3000 section 16-244z are retired and never used for compliance in any other
3001 jurisdiction, reductions to] or to retire such certificates on behalf of all
3002 ratepayers and reduce the percentage of the total output or services of
3003 an electric supplier or an electric distribution company generated from
3004 Class I renewable energy sources required pursuant to subsection (a) of
3005 this section. Any such reduction shall be based on the energy production
3006 that the authority forecasts will be procured. [pursuant to subsections
3007 (a) and (b) of section 16-244z.] The authority shall determine any such
3008 reduction of an annual renewable portfolio standard not later than one
3009 year prior to the effective date of such annual renewable portfolio
3010 standard. An electric distribution company shall not be responsible for
3011 any administrative or other costs or expenses associated with any
3012 difference between the number of renewable energy certificates planned
3013 to be retired pursuant to the authority's reduction and the actual
3014 number of renewable energy certificates retired.

3015 Sec. 38. Section 16a-3g of the general statutes is repealed and the
3016 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3017 On or after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Energy and
3018 Environmental Protection, in consultation with the procurement
3019 manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-2, as amended by this
3020 act, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Attorney General, may, in
3021 coordination with other states in the region of the regional independent
3022 system operator, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this act, or
3023 on the commissioner's own, solicit proposals, in one solicitation or
3024 multiple solicitations, from providers of Class I renewable energy
3025 sources, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this act, or verifiable
3026 large-scale hydropower, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this
3027 act. If the commissioner finds such proposals to be in the interest of
3028 ratepayers, including, but not limited to, the delivered price of such
3029 sources, and consistent with the requirements to reduce greenhouse gas
3030 emissions in accordance with section 22a-200a, and in accordance with

the policy goals outlined in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d, and section 129 of public act 11-80, including, but not limited to, base load capacity, peak load shaving and promotion of wind, solar and other renewable and low carbon energy technologies, the commissioner may select proposals from such resources to meet up to five per cent of the load distributed by the state's electric distribution companies. The commissioner may on behalf of all customers of electric distribution companies, direct the electric distribution companies to enter into power purchase agreements for energy, capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, for periods of not more than (1) fifteen years, if any such agreement is with a provider of verifiable large-scale hydropower, or (2) twenty years, if any such agreement is with a provider of a Class I renewable energy source. [Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy sources procured under this section shall be sold in the New England Power Pool Generation Information System renewable energy credit market to be used by any electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a.] Any such agreement shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, which review shall (A) include a public hearing, and (B) be completed not later than sixty days after the date on which such agreement is filed with the authority. The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution companies under the agreement and reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution companies in connection with the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of electric distribution companies. Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy source procured by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section shall be disposed of pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (g) of section 16-245a, as amended by this act.

Sec. 39. Section 16a-3h of the general statutes is repealed and the

3065 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3066 On or after October 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Energy and
3067 Environmental Protection, in consultation with the procurement
3068 manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-2, as amended by this
3069 act, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Attorney General, may
3070 solicit proposals, in one solicitation or multiple solicitations, from
3071 providers of the following resources or any combination of the
3072 following resources: Run-of-the-river hydropower, landfill methane
3073 gas, biomass, fuel cell, offshore wind or anaerobic digestion, provided
3074 such source meets the definition of a Class I renewable energy source
3075 pursuant to section 16-1, as amended by this act, or energy storage
3076 systems. In making any selection of such proposals, the commissioner
3077 shall consider factors, including, but not limited to (1) whether the
3078 proposal is in the interest of ratepayers, including, but not limited to,
3079 the delivered price of such sources, (2) the emissions profile of a relevant
3080 facility, (3) any investments made by a relevant facility to improve the
3081 emissions profile of such facility, (4) the length of time a relevant facility
3082 has received renewable energy credits, (5) any positive impacts on the
3083 state's economic development, (6) whether the proposal is consistent
3084 with requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance
3085 with section 22a-200a, including, but not limited to, the development of
3086 combined heat and power systems, (7) whether the proposal is
3087 consistent with the policy goals outlined in the Comprehensive Energy
3088 Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d, (8) whether the proposal
3089 promotes electric distribution system reliability and other electric
3090 distribution system benefits, including, but not limited to, microgrids,
3091 (9) whether the proposal promotes the policy goals outlined in the state-
3092 wide solid waste management plan developed pursuant to section 22a-
3093 241a, and (10) the positive reuse of sites with limited development
3094 opportunities, including, but not limited to, brownfields or landfills, as
3095 identified by the commissioner in any solicitation issued pursuant to
3096 this section. The commissioner may select proposals from such
3097 resources to meet up to six per cent of the load distributed by the state's
3098 electric distribution companies, provided the commissioner shall not

3099 select proposals for more than three per cent of the load distributed by
3100 the state's electric distribution companies from offshore wind resources.
3101 The commissioner may direct the electric distribution companies to
3102 enter into power purchase agreements for energy, capacity and
3103 environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, for periods of not
3104 more than twenty years on behalf of all customers of the state's electric
3105 distribution companies. [Certificates issued by the New England Power
3106 Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy
3107 sources procured under this section may be: (A) Sold in the New
3108 England Power Pool Generation Information System renewable energy
3109 credit market to be used by any electric supplier or electric distribution
3110 company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a, provided the
3111 revenues from such sale are credited to all customers of the contracting
3112 electric distribution company; or (B) retained by the electric distribution
3113 company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a. In considering
3114 whether to sell or retain such certificates, the company shall select the
3115 option that is in the best interest of such company's ratepayers.] Any
3116 such agreement shall be subject to review and approval by the Public
3117 Utilities Regulatory Authority, which review shall be completed not
3118 later than sixty days after the date on which such agreement is filed with
3119 the authority. The net costs of any such agreement, including costs
3120 incurred by the electric distribution companies under the agreement
3121 and reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution companies in
3122 connection with the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully
3123 reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of electric
3124 distribution companies. All reasonable costs incurred by the
3125 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection associated with
3126 the commissioner's solicitation and review of proposals pursuant to this
3127 section shall be recoverable through the nonbypassable federally
3128 mandated congestion charges, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by
3129 this act. Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation
3130 Information System for any Class I renewable energy source procured
3131 by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section shall be
3132 disposed of pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to
3133 subsection (g) of section 16-245a, as amended by this act.

3134 Sec. 40. Subsection (d) of section 16a-3i of the general statutes is
3135 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3136 *1, 2025*):

3137 (d) In the event there is such a presumption pursuant to subsection
3138 (a) of this section and the commissioner finds a material shortage of
3139 Class I renewable energy sources pursuant to subsection (b) of this
3140 section, and in addition to determining the adequacy pursuant to
3141 subsection (c) of this section, the commissioner shall, in consultation
3142 with the procurement manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-
3143 2, as amended by this act, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the
3144 Attorney General, solicit proposals from providers of Class I renewable
3145 energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this act,
3146 operational as of the date that such solicitation is issued. If the
3147 commissioner, in consultation with the procurement manager identified
3148 in subsection (l) of section 16-2, as amended by this act, finds such
3149 proposals to be in the interest of ratepayers including, but not limited
3150 to, the delivered price of such sources, and consistent with the
3151 requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with
3152 section 22a-200a, and in accordance with the policy goals outlined in the
3153 Comprehensive Energy Strategy, adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d,
3154 the commissioner, in consultation with the procurement manager
3155 identified in subsection (l) of section 16-2, as amended by this act, may
3156 select proposals from such sources to meet up to the amount necessary
3157 to ensure an adequate incremental supply of Class I renewable energy
3158 sources to rectify any projected shortage of Class I renewable energy
3159 supply identified pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The
3160 commissioner shall direct the electric distribution companies to enter
3161 into power purchase agreements for energy, capacity and
3162 environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, from such
3163 selected proposals for periods of not more than ten years. [Certificates
3164 issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System
3165 for any Class I renewable energy sources procured under this section
3166 shall be sold in the New England Power Pool Generation Information
3167 System renewable energy credit market to be used by any electric

3168 supplier or electric distribution company to meet the requirements of
3169 section 16-245a.] Any such agreement shall be subject to review and
3170 approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, which review
3171 shall commence upon the filing of the signed power purchase
3172 agreement with the authority. The authority shall issue a decision on
3173 such agreement not later than thirty days after such filing. In the event
3174 the authority does not issue a decision within thirty days after such
3175 agreement is filed with the authority, the agreement shall be deemed
3176 approved. The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred
3177 by the electric distribution companies under the agreement and
3178 reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution companies in
3179 connection with the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully
3180 reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of electric
3181 distribution companies. Certificates issued by the New England Power
3182 Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy
3183 source procured by an electric distribution company pursuant to this
3184 section shall be disposed of pursuant to the procedures established
3185 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 16-245a, as amended by this act.

3186 Sec. 41. Subsection (c) of section 16a-3n of the general statutes is
3187 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3188 *1, 2025*):

3189 (c) The commissioner may direct the electric distribution companies
3190 to enter into power purchase agreements for energy, capacity, any
3191 transmission associated with such energy derived from offshore wind
3192 facilities that are Class I renewable energy sources as defined in section
3193 16-1, as amended by this act, and environmental attributes, or any
3194 combination thereof, for periods of not more than twenty years on
3195 behalf of all customers of the state's electric distribution companies,
3196 except the commissioner may direct such companies to enter into such
3197 agreements for periods greater than twenty years and not more than
3198 thirty years if the commissioner conducts the solicitation pursuant to
3199 subsection (a) of this section in coordination with one or more states
3200 and, in response to such coordinated solicitation, the applicable officials

3201 of any such state select a proposal for energy, capacity and any
3202 environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, from such
3203 facilities for a period that is greater than twenty years and not more than
3204 thirty years. Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool
3205 Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy
3206 sources procured by an electric distribution company pursuant to this
3207 section [may be: (1) Sold into the New England Power Pool Generation
3208 Information System renewable energy credit market to be used by any
3209 electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet the
3210 requirements of section 16-245a, provided the revenues from such sale
3211 are credited to electric distribution company customers as described in
3212 this section; or (2) retained by the electric distribution company to meet
3213 the requirements of section 16-245a. In considering whether to sell or
3214 retain such certificates, the company shall select the option that is in the
3215 best interest of such company's ratepayers] shall be disposed of
3216 pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (g) of
3217 section 16-245a, as amended by this act.

3218 Sec. 42. Subsection (c) of section 16a-3p of the general statutes is
3219 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3220 *1, 2025*):

3221 (c) Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation
3222 Information System procured by an electric distribution company
3223 pursuant to this section [may be: (1) Sold into the New England Power
3224 Pool Generation Information System renewable energy credit market to
3225 be used by any electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet
3226 the requirements of section 16-245a, provided the revenues from such
3227 sale are credited to electric distribution company customers as described
3228 in this section; or (2) retained by the electric distribution company to
3229 meet the requirements of section 16-245a. In considering whether to sell
3230 or retain such certificates, the company shall select the option that is in
3231 the best interest of such company's ratepayers] shall be disposed of
3232 pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (g) of
3233 section 16-245a, as amended by this act.

3234 Sec. 43. Subsection (j) of section 16a-3a of the general statutes is
3235 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3236 *1, 2025*):

3237 (j) For the Integrated Resources Plan next approved after January 1,
3238 ~~[2019]~~ 2025, the department shall ~~[determine (1)]~~ establish targets for the
3239 quantity of energy the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
3240 Protection may seek in any solicitation or solicitations of proposals
3241 [initiated on or after January 1, 2020, pursuant to section 16a-3n,
3242 provided the quantity of energy sought in any such solicitations in the
3243 aggregate shall be from resources that have a total nameplate capacity
3244 rating of not more than two thousand megawatts in the aggregate, less
3245 any energy purchased pursuant to section 16a-3n on or before December
3246 31, 2019; and (2) the timing and schedule of any solicitation or
3247 solicitations of proposals initiated on or after January 1, 2020, pursuant
3248 to section 16a-3n, provided such schedule shall provide for the
3249 solicitation of resources with a nameplate capacity rating of two
3250 thousand megawatts in the aggregate, less any energy purchased
3251 pursuant to section 16a-3n on or before December 31, 2019, by December
3252 31, 2030] pursuant to sections 16a-3f, 16a-3g, as amended by this act, 16a-
3253 3h, as amended by this act, 16a-3i, as amended by this act, 16a-3j, 16a-
3254 3m, as amended by this act, 16a-3n, as amended by this act, and 16a-3p,
3255 as amended by this act, and a proposed schedule for such solicitations
3256 for new zero carbon Class I renewable energy resources necessary to
3257 achieve a target of an additional seven per cent of the total load served
3258 by the electric distribution companies in the aggregate by 2030 in
3259 addition to the requirements established pursuant to section 16-245a, as
3260 amended by this act. Such ~~[determinations]~~ targets shall be based on
3261 factors including, but not limited to, electricity system needs identified
3262 by the Integrated Resources Plan, including, but not limited to, capacity,
3263 winter reliability, progress in meeting the goals in the Global Warming
3264 Solutions Act pursuant to section 22a-200a, the priorities of the
3265 Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d,
3266 positive impacts on the state's economic development, opportunities to
3267 coordinate procurement with other states, forecasted trends in

3268 technology costs and impacts on the state's ratepayers.

3269 Sec. 44. Section 16a-3u of the general statutes is repealed and the
3270 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3271 (a) For the purposes of this section:

3272 (1) "Existing biomass power purchase agreement" means a power
3273 purchase agreement that: (A) (i) Was entered into by a biomass facility
3274 [that is a Class I renewable energy source] that uses sustainable biomass
3275 fuel and has an average emission rate of less than or equal to .075
3276 pounds of nitrogen oxides per million BTU of heat input for the
3277 previous calendar quarter, or energy derived from a biomass facility
3278 with a capacity of less than five hundred kilowatts that began
3279 construction before July 1, 2003, with an electric distribution company
3280 in the state on or before June 5, 2013, or (ii) was executed in accordance
3281 with a solicitation pursuant to section 16a-3f or 16a-3h, as amended by
3282 this act; and (B) was in effect as of January 1, 2024.

3283 (2) "Eligible biomass facility" means a biomass facility that [is a Class
3284 I renewable energy source] uses sustainable biomass fuel and has an
3285 average emission rate of less than or equal to .075 pounds of nitrogen
3286 oxides per million BTU of heat input for the previous calendar quarter,
3287 or energy derived from a biomass facility with a capacity of less than
3288 five hundred kilowatts that began construction before July 1, 2003, and
3289 that has entered into one or more existing biomass power purchase
3290 agreements.

3291 (3) "Additional biomass power purchase agreement" means a
3292 biomass power purchase agreement that is entered into by an eligible
3293 biomass facility and an electric distribution company pursuant to
3294 subdivision (b) of this section, for [the fraction of] such facility's energy,
3295 capacity and environmental attributes, [of an eligible biomass facility
3296 that was contracted for under an existing biomass power purchase
3297 agreement between such biomass facility and such electric distribution
3298 company] or any combination of such energy and attributes.

3299 (4) ["Class I renewable energy source", "electric distribution
3300 company"] "Electric distribution company" and "electric supplier" have
3301 the same meanings as provided in section 16-1, as amended by this act.

3302 (b) Not later than September 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and
3303 Environmental Protection shall initiate a proceeding to solicit proposals,
3304 in consultation with the procurement manager identified in subsection
3305 (l) of section 16-2, as amended by this act, and the Office of Consumer
3306 Counsel, in one solicitation or multiple solicitations, for energy and
3307 environmental attributes from eligible biomass facilities. The
3308 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may direct any
3309 electric distribution company to enter into one or more additional
3310 biomass power purchase agreements with any eligible biomass facility,
3311 provided any such agreement considers the costs to operate such
3312 facility, is in the best interest of ratepayers, and supports the state's solid
3313 waste management plan pursuant to section 22a-228. Any such
3314 additional power purchase agreement shall [be for] begin upon the
3315 termination of the applicable existing biomass power purchase
3316 agreements, and shall not exceed a period of ten years. [Certificates
3317 issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System
3318 for any Class I renewable energy sources procured by an electric
3319 distribution company pursuant to this section may be: (1) Sold into the
3320 New England Power Pool Generation Information System renewable
3321 energy credit market to be used by any electric supplier or electric
3322 distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a,
3323 provided the revenues from such sale are credited to all customers of
3324 the contracting electric distribution company; or (2) retained by such
3325 electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-
3326 245a. In considering whether to sell or retain such certificates, the
3327 company shall select the option that is in the best interest of such
3328 company's ratepayers.]

3329 (c) Any additional biomass power purchase agreement entered into
3330 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to review and
3331 approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. Such electric

3332 distribution company shall file an application for the approval of any
3333 such additional biomass power purchase agreement with the authority.
3334 The authority shall issue a decision not later than one hundred eighty
3335 days after any such filing. If the authority does not issue a decision
3336 within one hundred eighty days after such filing, such additional
3337 biomass power purchase agreement shall be deemed approved.

3338 (d) The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by
3339 the electric distribution companies under the agreement and reasonable
3340 costs incurred by any electric distribution company in connection with
3341 the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully reconciling
3342 component of electric rates for all customers of such electric distribution
3343 company.

3344 Sec. 45. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) The Commissioner of
3345 Energy and Environmental Protection shall establish an electric active
3346 demand and gas demand response pilot program to reduce electric and
3347 gas demand and improve electric and gas grid resiliency and reliability
3348 in the state. For a period of two years commencing from October 1, 2025,
3349 the commissioner may, in coordination with other states in the control
3350 area of the regional independent system operator, as defined in section
3351 16-1 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or on behalf of the
3352 state alone, issue multiple solicitations for contracts from providers of
3353 resources described in subsection (b) of this section.

3354 (b) The commissioner shall seek proposals for active electric demand
3355 response, or active or passive gas demand response measures pursuant
3356 to the pilot program. Each electric distribution company or gas
3357 company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, as amended
3358 by this act, shall, in consultation with the Energy Conservation
3359 Management Board established pursuant to section 16-245m of the
3360 general statutes, as amended by this act, assess whether the submission
3361 of a proposal for active and passive demand response measures, as
3362 applicable, is feasible pursuant to any solicitation issued pursuant to
3363 this subsection, provided such proposal only includes demand
3364 reductions that are in addition to existing and projected demand

3365 reductions obtained through the conservation and load management
3366 programs. If the commissioner finds proposals received pursuant to this
3367 section to be in the best interest of electric or gas ratepayers, as
3368 applicable, the commissioner may, on behalf of the customers of electric
3369 distribution companies or gas companies, direct the electric distribution
3370 companies or gas companies to enter into contracts for active or passive
3371 demand response measures that result in electric or gas savings,
3372 provided the benefits of such contracts to customers of electric
3373 distribution companies or gas companies outweigh the costs to such
3374 companies' customers. Any proposals selected pursuant this section
3375 shall not, in the aggregate, exceed ten per cent of the load distributed by
3376 the state's electric distribution or gas companies in the aggregate.

3377 (c) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be
3378 subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory
3379 Authority. The electric distribution company or gas company, as
3380 applicable, shall file an application for the approval of any such
3381 agreement with the authority. The authority shall approve such
3382 agreement if it is cost effective and in the best interest of electric or gas
3383 ratepayers. The authority shall issue a decision not later than ninety
3384 days after such filing. If the authority does not issue a decision within
3385 ninety days after such filing, the agreement shall be deemed approved.
3386 The net costs of any such agreement, including reasonable costs
3387 incurred by the gas company under the agreement shall be recovered
3388 on a timely basis through the conservation adjustment mechanism
3389 established pursuant to section 16-245m of the general statutes, as
3390 amended by this act, and reasonable costs incurred by the electric
3391 distribution company under the agreement shall be recovered on a
3392 timely basis through the nonbypassable federally mandated congestion
3393 charge, as defined in subsection (a) of section 16-1 of the general statutes,
3394 as amended by this act.

3395 (d) The commissioner may hire consultants with expertise in
3396 quantitative modeling of electric or gas markets, and physical electric or
3397 gas system modeling, as applicable, to assist in implementing this

3398 section, including, but not limited to, the evaluation of proposals
3399 submitted pursuant to this section. All reasonable costs, not exceeding
3400 one million five hundred thousand dollars, associated with the
3401 commissioner's solicitation and review of proposals pursuant to this
3402 section shall be recoverable through the conservation adjustment
3403 mechanism established pursuant to section 16-245m of the general
3404 statutes, as amended by this act, for gas companies or the nonbypassable
3405 federally mandated congestion charge, as defined in section 16-1 of the
3406 general statutes, as amended by this act, for electric distribution
3407 companies. Such costs shall be recoverable even if the commissioner
3408 does not select any proposals pursuant to solicitations issued pursuant
3409 to this section.

3410 (e) On or before January 1, 2028, the commissioner shall conduct an
3411 evaluation of the electric and gas demand response pilot program. Such
3412 evaluation shall address the overall effectiveness of the pilot program in
3413 benefiting electric and gas ratepayers in the state. The commissioner
3414 shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
3415 general statutes, such evaluation and any recommendations for
3416 legislation to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
3417 having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology.

3418 Sec. 46. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 16-245m of the
3419 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3420 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3421 (d) (1) Not later than November 1, 2012, and every three years
3422 thereafter, electric distribution companies, as defined in section 16-1, as
3423 amended by this act, in coordination with the gas companies, as defined
3424 in section 16-1, as amended by this act, shall submit to the Energy
3425 Conservation Management Board a combined electric and gas
3426 Conservation and Load Management Plan, in accordance with the
3427 provisions of this section, to implement cost-effective energy
3428 conservation programs, demand management and market
3429 transformation initiatives. All supply and conservation and load
3430 management options shall be evaluated and selected within an

3431 integrated supply and demand planning framework. Services provided
3432 under the plan shall be available to all customers of electric distribution
3433 companies and gas companies, provided a customer of an electric
3434 distribution company may not be denied such services based on the fuel
3435 such customer uses to heat such customer's home. The Energy
3436 Conservation Management Board shall advise and assist the electric
3437 distribution companies and gas companies in the development of such
3438 plan. The Energy Conservation Management Board shall approve the
3439 plan before transmitting it to the Commissioner of Energy and
3440 Environmental Protection for approval. The commissioner shall, in an
3441 uncontested proceeding during which the commissioner may hold a
3442 public meeting, approve, modify or reject said plan prepared pursuant
3443 to this subsection. Following approval by the commissioner, the board
3444 shall assist the companies in implementing the plan and collaborate
3445 with the Connecticut Green Bank to further the goals of the plan. Said
3446 plan shall include a detailed budget sufficient to fund all energy
3447 efficiency that is cost-effective or lower cost than acquisition of
3448 equivalent supply, and shall be reviewed and approved by the
3449 commissioner. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, not later
3450 than sixty days after the plan is approved by the commissioner, ensure
3451 that the balance of revenues required to fund such plan is provided
3452 through fully reconciling conservation adjustment mechanisms. Electric
3453 distribution companies shall collect a conservation adjustment
3454 mechanism that ensures the plan is fully funded by collecting an
3455 amount that is not more than the sum of six mills per kilowatt hour of
3456 electricity sold to each end use customer of an electric distribution
3457 company during the three years of any Conservation and Load
3458 Management Plan. The authority shall ensure that the revenues
3459 required to fund such plan with regard to gas companies are provided
3460 through a fully reconciling conservation adjustment mechanism for
3461 each gas company of not more than the equivalent of four and six-tenth
3462 cents per hundred cubic feet during the three years of any Conservation
3463 and Load Management Plan, provided such companies may exceed the
3464 equivalent of four and six-tenth cents per hundred cubic feet to fund the
3465 net costs of any agreement approved pursuant to section 45 of this act.

3466 Said plan shall include steps that would be needed to achieve the goal
3467 of weatherization of eighty per cent of the state's residential units by
3468 2030, and steps to reduce energy consumption by 1.6 million MMBtu, or
3469 the equivalent megawatts of electricity, as defined in subdivision (4) of
3470 section 22a-197, annually each year for calendar years commencing on
3471 and after January 1, 2020, up to and including calendar year 2025. Each
3472 program contained in the plan shall be reviewed by such companies and
3473 accepted, modified or rejected by the Energy Conservation
3474 Management Board prior to submission to the commissioner for
3475 approval. The Energy Conservation Management Board shall, as part of
3476 its review, examine opportunities to offer joint programs providing
3477 similar efficiency measures that save more than one fuel resource or
3478 otherwise to coordinate programs targeted at saving more than one fuel
3479 resource. Any costs for joint programs shall be allocated equitably
3480 among the conservation programs. The Energy Conservation
3481 Management Board shall give preference to projects that maximize the
3482 reduction of federally mandated congestion charges.

3483 Sec. 47. Subsection (i) of section 16a-3j of the general statutes is
3484 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3485 *1, 2025*):

3486 (i) Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation
3487 Information System for any Class I renewable energy source or Class III
3488 source procured by an electric distribution company pursuant to this
3489 section [may be: (1) Sold into the New England Power Pool Generation
3490 Information System renewable energy credit market to be used by any
3491 electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet the
3492 requirements of section 16-245a, so long as the revenues from such sale
3493 are credited to electric distribution company customers as described in
3494 this subsection; or (2) retained by the electric distribution company to
3495 meet the requirements of section 16-245a. In considering whether to sell
3496 or retain such certificates the company shall select the option that is in
3497 the best interest of such company's ratepayers] shall be disposed of
3498 pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (g) of

3499 section 16-245a, as amended by this act.

3500 Sec. 48. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16a-3n of the
3501 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3502 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3503 (3) In any solicitation initiated pursuant to this section on or after July
3504 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
3505 shall include requirements for contract commitments in selected bids
3506 that require bidders selected pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
3507 including any providers of associated transmission, when employing or
3508 contracting with fishermen for support services such as scouting for
3509 fishing gear or serving as a safety vessel in a construction zone, for any
3510 project selected by the state or in proportion to the state share of any
3511 project selected by multiple states or other entities, to use best efforts to
3512 award such contracts or employment to state commercial fishing
3513 licensees, all other factors being equal. Such requirements shall include:
3514 (A) The maintenance of records that document the use of such best
3515 efforts and the filing of a monthly report with the Department of
3516 Economic and Community Development that describes such best
3517 efforts, on a form prescribed by said department; and (B) a provision
3518 that any fishermen that such providers employ or contract with to
3519 provide support services shall: (i) Meet training and certification
3520 standards described in the International Convention on Standards of
3521 Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, as amended
3522 from time to time; and (ii) prior to providing any such support services,
3523 undergo inspection in accordance with the International Marine
3524 Contractors Association's marine inspection for small workboats
3525 inspection document. The Coast Guard or any inspector accredited
3526 through the accredited vessel inspector program operated by the Marine
3527 Surveying Academy of the International Institute of Marine Surveying
3528 or the United States National Association of Marine Surveyors may
3529 conduct such an inspection.

3530 Sec. 49. Section 16-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
3531 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3532 (a) There shall continue to be a Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
3533 within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for
3534 administrative purposes only, which shall consist of five electors of this
3535 state, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of both
3536 houses of the General Assembly. Not more than three [members of said
3537 authority] utility commissioners in office at any one time shall be
3538 members of any one political party. The Governor shall appoint five
3539 members to the authority. The procedure prescribed in section 4-7 shall
3540 apply to such appointments, except that the Governor shall submit each
3541 nomination on or before May first, and both houses shall confirm or
3542 reject it before adjournment sine die. [Any utility commissioner
3543 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by both chambers of the
3544 General Assembly between February 1, 2019, and June 1, 2019, shall
3545 serve a term expiring on March 1, 2024. Any utility commissioner
3546 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by both houses of the
3547 General Assembly between February 1, 2018, and June 1, 2018, shall
3548 serve a term expiring on March 1, 2022. Between July 1, 2019, and May
3549 1, 2020, the Governor shall appoint three utility commissioners,
3550 provided one such commissioner shall serve a term expiring on March
3551 1, 2021, and two such commissioners shall serve terms expiring on
3552 March 1, 2023.] Any utility commissioner appointed on or after [May 1,
3553 2020] January 1, 2025, shall serve a term [of four years] beginning on the
3554 date such utility commissioner is appointed and qualified and
3555 continuing for four years from the July first immediately following the
3556 date of appointment by the Governor, and may continue in office until
3557 a successor is appointed and qualified. The utility commissioners shall
3558 be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties. The chairperson
3559 serves as the chief executive of the authority for administrative
3560 purposes.

3561 (b) Not later than June 30, 2023, and between June first and June
3562 thirtieth in each odd-numbered year thereafter, the Governor shall
3563 select the chairperson of the authority from among the utility
3564 commissioners. The chairperson shall serve a two-year term starting on
3565 July first of the same year. Each June, the utility commissioners shall

3566 choose, from among said commissioners, a vice-chairperson, who shall
3567 serve for a one-year term starting on July first of the same year. The vice-
3568 chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson in his or her
3569 absence.

3570 (c) Any matter coming before the authority may be assigned by the
3571 chairperson to a panel of three or more utility commissioners, except
3572 that proceedings to amend rates conducted pursuant to section 16-19, as
3573 amended by this act, shall consist of all the appointed and qualifying
3574 utility commissioners. If a panel consists of three utility commissioners,
3575 not more than two members of the panel shall be members of any one
3576 political party. Except as otherwise provided by statute or regulation,
3577 the panel shall determine whether a public hearing shall be held on the
3578 matter, and may designate one or more of its members to conduct such
3579 hearing or may assign a hearing officer to ascertain the facts and report
3580 thereon to the panel. The decision of the panel, if unanimous, shall be
3581 the decision of the authority. If the decision of the panel is not
3582 unanimous, the matter shall be approved by a majority vote of the utility
3583 commissioners. The votes of each utility commissioner on any decision
3584 shall be reduced to writing, recorded in the minutes of the session at
3585 which such vote was taken, and posted on the Internet web site of the
3586 authority within forty-eight hours of such vote.

3587 (d) The utility commissioners of the Public Utilities Regulatory
3588 Authority shall serve full time and shall file a statement of financial
3589 interests with the Office of State Ethics in accordance with section 1-83.
3590 Each utility commissioner shall receive annually a salary equal to that
3591 established for management pay plan salary group seventy-five by the
3592 Commissioner of Administrative Services, except that the chairperson
3593 shall receive annually a salary equal to that established for management
3594 pay plan salary group seventy-seven.

3595 (e) To [insure] ensure the highest standard of public utility
3596 regulation, on and after October 1, 2007, any newly appointed utility
3597 commissioner of the authority shall have education or training and three
3598 or more years of experience in one or more of the following fields:

3599 Economics, engineering, law, accounting, finance, utility regulation,
3600 public or government administration, consumer advocacy, business
3601 management, and environmental management. On and after July 1,
3602 1997, at least three of these fields shall be represented on the authority
3603 by individual utility commissioners at all times. Any time a utility
3604 commissioner is newly appointed, at least one of the utility
3605 commissioners shall have experience in utility customer advocacy.

3606 (f) (1) The chairperson of the authority [, with the approval of the
3607 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,] shall prescribe
3608 the duties of the staff [assigned to] of the authority [in order to (A)
3609 conduct comprehensive planning with respect to the functions of the
3610 authority; (B) cause the administrative organization of the authority to
3611 be examined with a view to promoting economy and efficiency; and (C)]
3612 and organize the authority into such divisions, bureaus or other units as
3613 necessary for the efficient conduct of the business of the authority. [and
3614 may from time to time make recommendations to the Commissioner of
3615 Energy and Environmental Protection regarding staff and resources.]

3616 (2) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority [, in
3617 order to implement the comprehensive planning and organizational
3618 structure established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection,]
3619 shall: (A) [coordinate] Coordinate the activities of the authority and
3620 prescribe the duties of the staff [assigned to] of the authority, including,
3621 but not limited to, assigning staff to fulfill the duties of the procurement
3622 manager where required pursuant to titles 16 and 16a; (B) for any
3623 proceeding on a proposed rate amendment in which staff of the
3624 authority are to be made a party pursuant to section 16-19j, determine
3625 which staff shall appear and participate in the proceedings and which
3626 shall serve the [members of the authority] utility commissioners; (C)
3627 enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with established
3628 procedures, as may be necessary for the discharge of the authority's
3629 duties; (D) subject to the provisions of section 4-32, and unless otherwise
3630 provided by law, receive any money, revenue or services from the
3631 federal government, corporations, associations or individuals,

3632 including payments from the sale of printed matter or any other
3633 material or services; [and] (E) require the staff of the authority to have
3634 expertise in public utility engineering and accounting, finance,
3635 economics, computers and rate design; and (F) ensure that utility
3636 commissioners who choose to write a concurring or dissenting opinion
3637 are provided staff to assist in writing such opinion.

3638 (g) No utility commissioner [of the Public Utilities Regulatory
3639 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
3640 Protection assigned to work with the authority] or employee of the
3641 authority shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or
3642 indirect, or engage in any business, employment, transaction or
3643 professional activity, or incur any obligation of any nature, which is in
3644 substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties or
3645 employment in the public interest and of his or her responsibilities as
3646 prescribed in the laws of this state, as defined in section 1-85, concerning
3647 any matter within the jurisdiction of the authority; provided, no such
3648 substantial conflict shall be deemed to exist solely by virtue of the fact
3649 that a utility commissioner of the authority or employee of the
3650 department assigned to work with the authority, or any business in
3651 which such a person has an interest, receives utility service from one or
3652 more Connecticut utilities under the normal rates and conditions of
3653 service.

3654 (h) No utility commissioner [of the Public Utilities Regulatory
3655 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
3656 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such
3657 assignment,] or employee of the authority shall accept other
3658 employment which will either impair his or her independence of
3659 judgment as to his or her official duties or employment. [or] No current
3660 or former utility commissioner or employee of the authority shall accept
3661 other employment that would require him or her, or induce him or her,
3662 to disclose confidential information acquired by him or her in the course
3663 of and by reason of his or her official duties.

3664 (i) No utility commissioner [of the Public Utilities Regulatory

3665 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
3666 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such
3667 assignment,] or employee of the authority shall wilfully and knowingly
3668 disclose, for pecuniary gain, to any other person, confidential
3669 information acquired by him or her in the course of and by reason of his
3670 or her official duties or employment or use any such information for the
3671 purpose of pecuniary gain.

3672 (j) No utility commissioner [of the Public Utilities Regulatory
3673 Authority or employee of the Department of Energy and Environmental
3674 Protection assigned to work with the authority, during such
3675 assignment,] or employee of the authority shall agree to accept, or be in
3676 partnership or association with any person, or a member of a
3677 professional corporation or in membership with any union or
3678 professional association which partnership, association, professional
3679 corporation, union or professional association agrees to accept any
3680 employment, fee or other thing of value, or portion thereof, in
3681 consideration of his or her appearing, agreeing to appear, or taking any
3682 other action on behalf of another person before the authority, the
3683 Connecticut Siting Council, the Office of Policy and Management or the
3684 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

3685 (k) [No] On and after July 1, 2025, no utility commissioner [of the
3686 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority] shall, for a period of one year
3687 following the termination of his or her service as a utility commissioner,
3688 accept employment: (1) By a public service company or by any person,
3689 firm or corporation engaged in lobbying activities or legal
3690 representation with regard to governmental regulation of public service
3691 companies; (2) by a certified telecommunications provider or by any
3692 person, firm or corporation engaged in lobbying activities or legal
3693 representation with regard to governmental regulation of persons, firms
3694 or corporations so certified; [or] (3) by an electric supplier or by any
3695 person, firm or corporation engaged in lobbying activities or legal
3696 representation with regard to governmental regulation of electric
3697 suppliers; or (4) by any related entity, as defined in section 12-218c, of

3698 any entity described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this
3699 subsection, for any purpose described in subdivisions (1) to (3),
3700 inclusive, of this subsection. No such utility commissioner [who is also
3701 an attorney] shall in any capacity, appear or participate in any matter,
3702 or accept any compensation regarding a matter, before the authority, for
3703 a period of one year following the termination of his or her service as a
3704 utility commissioner.

3705 (l) The chairperson of the authority shall assign authority staff to
3706 fulfill the duties of procurement manager where required pursuant to
3707 this title and title 16a.

3708 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
3709 decisions of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, including, but not
3710 limited to, decisions relating to rate amendments arising from the
3711 Comprehensive Energy Strategy, the Integrated Resources Plan, the
3712 Conservation and Load Management Plan and policies established by
3713 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall be
3714 guided by said strategy and plans and such policies.

3715 (n) Two or more utility commissioners serving on a panel established
3716 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section may confer or communicate
3717 regarding the matter before such panel. Any such conference or
3718 communication that does not occur before the public at a hearing or
3719 proceeding shall not constitute a meeting as defined in section 1-200.

3720 Sec. 50. Section 16-2a of the general statutes is repealed and the
3721 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3722 (a) There shall be an independent Office of Consumer Counsel,
3723 within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for
3724 administrative purposes only, to act as the advocate for consumer
3725 interests in all matters which may affect [Connecticut] consumers in the
3726 state with respect to public service companies, electric suppliers and
3727 certified telecommunications providers, including, but not limited to,
3728 rates and related issues, ratepayer-funded programs and matters

3729 concerning the reliability, maintenance, operations, infrastructure and
3730 quality of service of such companies, suppliers and providers. The
3731 Office of Consumer Counsel is authorized to appear in and participate
3732 in any regulatory or judicial proceedings, federal or state, in which such
3733 interests of [Connecticut] consumers in the state may be involved, or in
3734 which matters affecting utility services rendered or to be rendered in
3735 this state may be involved. The Office of Consumer Counsel shall be a
3736 party to each contested case before the Public Utilities Regulatory
3737 Authority and shall participate in [such proceedings] any such
3738 contested case to the extent [it] the Office of Consumer Counsel deems
3739 necessary. [Said] The Office of Consumer Counsel may appeal from a
3740 decision, order or authorization in any such state regulatory proceeding
3741 [notwithstanding its failure to appear or participate in said] regardless
3742 of whether the Office of Consumer Counsel appeared or participated in
3743 such proceeding.

3744 (b) Except as prohibited by the provisions of section 4-181, the Office
3745 of Consumer Counsel shall have access to the records of the Public
3746 Utilities Regulatory Authority and shall be entitled to call upon the
3747 assistance of the authority's and the [department's] Department of
3748 Energy and Environmental Protection's experts, and shall have the
3749 benefit of all other facilities or information of the authority or the
3750 department in carrying out the duties of the Office of Consumer
3751 Counsel, except for such internal documents, information or data [as]
3752 that are not available to parties to the authority's proceedings. The
3753 department shall provide such space as necessary within the
3754 department's quarters for the operation of the Office of Consumer
3755 Counsel, and the department shall be empowered to set regulations
3756 providing for adequate compensation for the provision of such office
3757 space.

3758 (c) There [shall be] is established an Office of State Broadband within
3759 the Office of Consumer Counsel. The Office of State Broadband shall
3760 work to facilitate the availability of broadband access to every [state
3761 citizen] resident of the state and to increase access to and the adoption

3762 of ultra-high-speed gigabit capable broadband networks. The Office of
3763 Consumer Counsel may work in collaboration with public and
3764 nonprofit entities and state agencies, and may provide advisory
3765 assistance to municipalities, local authorities and private corporations
3766 for the purpose of maximizing opportunities for the expansion of
3767 broadband access in the state and fostering innovative approaches to
3768 broadband in the state, including the procurement of grants for such
3769 purpose. The Office of State Broadband shall include a Broadband
3770 Policy Coordinator and such other staff as the Consumer Counsel deems
3771 necessary to perform the duties of the Office of State Broadband.

3772 (d) The Office of Consumer Counsel shall be under the direction of
3773 [a] the Consumer Counsel, who shall be appointed by the Governor
3774 with the advice and consent of either house of the General Assembly.
3775 The Consumer Counsel shall be an elector of this state and shall have
3776 demonstrated a strong commitment and involvement in efforts to
3777 safeguard the rights of the public. The Consumer Counsel shall serve
3778 for a term of five years unless removed pursuant to section 16-5. The
3779 salary of the Consumer Counsel shall be equal to that established for
3780 management pay plan salary group seventy-one by the Commissioner
3781 of Administrative Services. No Consumer Counsel shall, for a period of
3782 one year following the termination of service as Consumer Counsel,
3783 accept employment by a public service company, a certified
3784 telecommunications provider or an electric supplier. No Consumer
3785 Counsel who is also an attorney shall, in any capacity, appear or
3786 participate in any matter, or accept any compensation regarding a
3787 matter, before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, for a period of
3788 one year following the termination of service as Consumer Counsel.

3789 (e) The Consumer Counsel shall hire such staff as necessary to
3790 perform the duties of [said] the Office of Consumer Counsel and may
3791 [employ] retain from time to time outside consultants knowledgeable in
3792 [the utility regulation field] utilities regulation, including, but not
3793 limited to, economists, capital cost experts, [and] rate design experts and
3794 engineers. The salaries and qualifications of the [individuals] staff so

3795 hired shall be determined by the Commissioner of Administrative
3796 Services pursuant to section 4-40.

3797 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any party
3798 interested in such proceeding or action from appearing in person or
3799 from being represented by counsel therein.

3800 (g) As used in this section, "consumer" means any person [, city,
3801 borough or town] or municipality, as defined in section 7-148, that
3802 receives service from any public service company, electric supplier or
3803 from any certified telecommunications provider in this state whether or
3804 not such person [, city, borough or town] or municipality is financially
3805 responsible for such service.

3806 (h) The Office of Consumer Counsel shall not be required to post a
3807 bond as a condition to presenting an appeal from any state regulatory
3808 decision, order or authorization.

3809 (i) The expenses of the Office of Consumer Counsel shall be assessed
3810 in accordance with the provisions of section 16-49.

3811 (j) Any proprietary commercial and proprietary financial information
3812 of a holding company or subsidiary provided to the Office of Consumer
3813 Counsel pursuant to subsection (c) of section 16-8c, as amended by this
3814 act, shall be confidential and protected by the Office of Consumer
3815 Counsel, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 14. No employee
3816 of the Office of Consumer Counsel shall wilfully and knowingly
3817 disclose, for pecuniary gain, to any other person, confidential
3818 information acquired by such employee in the course of and by reason
3819 of such employee's official duties or employment or use any such
3820 information for the purpose of pecuniary gain.

3821 Sec. 51. Subsection (d) of section 16-19b of the general statutes is
3822 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3823 *1, 2025*):

3824 (d) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall adjust the retail

3825 rate charged by each electric distribution company for electric
3826 transmission services periodically to recover all transmission costs
3827 prudently incurred by each electric distribution company. The Public
3828 Utilities Regulatory Authority, after notice and hearing, shall design the
3829 retail transmission rate to provide for recovery of all Federal Energy
3830 Regulatory Commission approved transmission costs, rates, tariffs and
3831 charges and of other transmission costs prudently incurred by an
3832 electric distribution company in accordance with section 16-19e.
3833 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 16-19, as amended by this act,
3834 the authority shall adjust the retail transmission rate in accordance with
3835 the provisions of subsections (e) and (h) of this section and to fund costs
3836 associated with retaining consultants for the Department of Energy and
3837 Environmental Protection and the Office of Consumer Counsel to enable
3838 said department and said office to participate in proceedings of the
3839 Connecticut Siting Council, and evaluations and analysis conducted
3840 pursuant to section 25 of this act. A transmission rate adjustment clause
3841 approved pursuant to this section shall apply to all electric distribution
3842 companies similarly affected by transmission costs. The Public Utilities
3843 Regulatory Authority's authority to review the prudence of costs shall
3844 not apply to any matter over which any agency, department or
3845 instrumentality of the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction, or
3846 has jurisdiction concurrent with that of the state and has exercised such
3847 jurisdiction to the exclusion of regulation of such matter by the state.

3848 Sec. 52. Subsection (c) of section 16-8c of the general statutes is
3849 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3850 *1, 2025*):

3851 (c) [Proprietary] Any proprietary commercial and proprietary
3852 financial information of a holding company or subsidiary provided
3853 pursuant to this section shall (1) be confidential and protected by the
3854 authority, subject to the provisions of section 4-177, and (2) be provided
3855 to the Office of Consumer Counsel.

3856 Sec. 53. Section 16-6b of the general statutes is repealed and the
3857 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3858 The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may, in accordance with
3859 chapter 54, adopt such regulations with respect to: (1) Rates and charges,
3860 services, accounting practices, safety and the conduct of operations
3861 generally of public service companies subject to its jurisdiction as it
3862 deems reasonable and necessary; (2) services, accounting practices,
3863 safety and the conduct of operations generally of electric suppliers
3864 subject to its jurisdiction as it deems reasonable and necessary; and (3)
3865 standards for systems utilizing cogeneration technology and renewable
3866 fuel resources. [, in accordance with the Department of Energy and
3867 Environmental Protection's policies.]

3868 Sec. 54. Subsection (b) of section 16-19 of the general statutes is
3869 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3870 *passage*):

3871 (b) [If] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this section, if the
3872 authority has not made [its] a finding [respecting] with respect to an
3873 amendment of any (A) electric distribution or gas company rate within
3874 three hundred fifty days from the proposed effective date of such
3875 amendment thereof, or [if the authority has not made its finding
3876 respecting an amendment of any] (B) public service company rate,
3877 except an electric distribution or a gas company rate, within two
3878 hundred seventy days from the proposed effective date of such
3879 amendment thereof, and if the company files assurance satisfactory to
3880 the authority, such amendment [may] shall become effective, pending
3881 the authority's finding with respect to such amendment. [upon the filing
3882 by the company with the authority of assurance satisfactory to the
3883 authority, which] Such assurance may include a bond with surety [,] of
3884 the company's ability and willingness to refund to its customers with
3885 interest such amounts as the company may collect from [them in excess
3886 of] such customers exceeding the rates fixed by the authority in [its] the
3887 authority's finding or fixed at the conclusion of any appeal taken as a
3888 result of a finding by the authority.

3889 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the authority may
3890 extend the time described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision

3891 (1) of this subsection to make a finding concerning a rate amendment
3892 application if such application is filed by a public service company
3893 having more than seventy-five thousand customers not later than sixty
3894 days after the filing of a rate amendment application by another public
3895 service company having more than seventy-five thousand customers.
3896 The extension of such time to make a finding by the authority pursuant
3897 to this subdivision shall not exceed ninety days.

3898 Sec. 55. Subsection (a) of section 16-243ee of the general statutes is
3899 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3900 *1, 2025*):

3901 (a) On or before January 1, 2022, the Public Utilities Regulatory
3902 Authority shall initiate a proceeding to develop and implement one or
3903 more programs, and associated funding mechanisms, for electric energy
3904 storage resources connected to the electric distribution system. The
3905 authority shall establish (1) one or more programs for the residential
3906 class of electric customers, and (2) one or more programs for commercial
3907 and industrial classes of electric customers. [, and (3) a program for
3908 energy storage systems connected to the distribution system in front of
3909 the meter and not located at a customer premises.] The authority shall
3910 solicit input from the Department of Energy and Environmental
3911 Protection, the Connecticut Green Bank, the electric distribution
3912 companies and the Office of Consumer Counsel in developing such
3913 programs.

3914 Sec. 56. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
3915 section, "system load factor" means the average load in megawatts on
3916 an electric distribution company's system divided by the peak load in
3917 megawatts on such system.

3918 (b) To reduce structural inefficiencies in the electric transmission and
3919 distribution systems in the state and improve the affordability of
3920 electricity for ratepayers, it shall be the goal of the state to maximize the
3921 efficiency and utilization of such systems and to ensure that any
3922 programs funded by ratepayers are cost-effective and focused on

3923 affordability, reliability and decarbonization. To achieve the goals set
3924 forth in this section, the state shall seek to (1) improve electric system
3925 utilization by improving the system load factor, (2) analyze customer
3926 usage patterns and the efficacy of investments in electrification projects
3927 and grid-scale electricity storage projects, (3) develop and implement
3928 policies and incentives to encourage the dispatch of energy generated
3929 by distributed solar photovoltaic systems installed behind customer
3930 electric meters, and (4) study and report on methods to promote
3931 business growth in the state through electric load growing energy
3932 policies. The implementation of such goals shall be consistent with the
3933 emission reduction goals set forth in 22a-200a of the general statutes.

3934 (c) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, through programs
3935 administered by the authority and the regulation of electric distribution
3936 companies in the state, may establish specific goals and metrics aligned
3937 with the electric system efficiency goal specified in subsection (b) of this
3938 section. Programs administered by the authority to meet such goal may
3939 include, but need not be limited to, incentives for the dispatch of energy
3940 generated by distributed solar photovoltaic systems installed behind
3941 customer electric meters for the purpose of increasing the system load
3942 factor. For any program implemented under this section, the benefits to
3943 ratepayers shall exceed the costs to ratepayers.

3944 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
3945 establish specific goals and metrics aligned with the electric system
3946 efficiency goal specified in subsection (b) of this section through the
3947 approval of the Integrated Resources Plan pursuant to section 16a-3a of
3948 the general statutes, as amended by this act, and may establish
3949 programs, within available appropriations and authority, to promote
3950 load factor growth. Such programs may include, but need not be limited
3951 to, investments in electrification projects and grid-scale electricity
3952 storage projects. For any program implemented under this section, the
3953 benefits to ratepayers shall exceed the costs to ratepayers.

3954 (e) The commissioner shall allocate staff within the energy bureau of
3955 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the

3956 purpose of (1) analyzing customer usage patterns and the efficacy of
3957 investments in electrification projects and grid-scale electricity storage
3958 projects, (2) studying and reporting on methods to promote business
3959 growth in the state through electric load growing energy policies, and
3960 (3) long-term planning concerning the development of a more efficient,
3961 cost-effective electric system that actively aligns procurement, grid
3962 operations and customer usage behavior to reduce ratepayer costs and
3963 improve electric system efficiency.

3964 (f) Not later than April 1, 2026, and annually thereafter through April
3965 1, 2041, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
3966 coordination with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, shall report
3967 on (1) the annual load factor and daily load factors for the prior calendar
3968 year for each electric distribution company, (2) any policies and
3969 strategies adopted through an authority proceeding to promote the
3970 achievement of the system efficiency goal established in subsection (b)
3971 of this section, including the costs and benefits of any program
3972 implemented pursuant to this section, and (3) any cost-effective policies
3973 or programs the legislature may adopt to promote the achievement of
3974 such system efficiency goal. The commissioner may consult with, and
3975 request data from, the electric distribution companies to assist in the
3976 preparation of such report. The commissioner shall submit such report,
3977 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, of the general statutes
3978 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
3979 cognizance of matters related to energy and technology.

3980 Sec. 57. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

3981 (1) "Solar photovoltaic system" means equipment and devices (A)
3982 that have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and generating
3983 electricity by photovoltaic effect, (B) that have a nameplate capacity
3984 greater than one megawatt of electricity and such nameplate capacity
3985 exceeds the load for the location where such generation is located, and
3986 (C) for which the owner of such equipment and devices receives, on or
3987 after July 1, 2026, permission to operate from an electric distribution
3988 company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, as amended

3989 by this act, or a municipal utility furnishing electricity;

3990 (2) "Municipality" means any town, city, consolidated town and city
3991 or consolidated town and borough; and

3992 (3) "Uniform solar capacity tax year" means the annual accounting
3993 period used to calculate the tax under this section, consisting of a
3994 twelve-month period commencing on July first and ending the
3995 following June thirtieth.

3996 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection and
3997 subsection (h) of this section, for uniform solar capacity tax years
3998 commencing on and after July 1, 2026, each person that owns a solar
3999 photovoltaic system in the state for generation or displacement of
4000 energy shall pay an annual tax for a period of twenty solar capacity tax
4001 years to the department of finance of each municipality in which the
4002 system or any part thereof is located, or, if the municipality does not
4003 have a department of finance, to the tax collector for such municipality.
4004 For any solar photovoltaic system that receives permission to operate in
4005 the uniform solar capacity tax year commencing on and after July 1,
4006 2026, the tax shall be, for the duration of the twenty-year period such
4007 tax is imposed, the product of ten thousand dollars multiplied by the
4008 number of megawatts, and any fractional portion thereof, of nameplate
4009 capacity for each such system. If a solar photovoltaic system has
4010 multiple owners, each owner shall be jointly and severally liable for the
4011 tax owed pursuant to this section.

4012 (2) Each person that owns a solar photovoltaic system in the state that
4013 receives, on or after July 1, 2026, permission to operate shall notify, not
4014 later than seven days after the date of such receipt, the department of
4015 finance of each municipality in which the system or any part thereof is
4016 located or, if the municipality does not have a department of finance,
4017 the tax collector for such municipality, of the effective date of such
4018 permission to operate.

4019 (3) The tax imposed under this section shall not apply to solar

4020 photovoltaic systems in the state that (A) are located on (i) state-owned
4021 land, (ii) brownfields, as defined in section 32-760 of the general statutes,
4022 (iii) landfills, (iv) residential, commercial or industrial rooftops, or (v)
4023 solar canopies, as defined in section 8-2q of the general statutes, or (B)
4024 are part of a microgrid serving a critical facility, as those terms are
4025 defined in section 16-243y of the general statutes.

4026 (c) The Office of Policy and Management shall develop a form to be
4027 submitted with the tax due under this section. Not later than July 31,
4028 2026, the department of finance in each municipality, or, for any
4029 municipality that does not have a department of finance, the tax
4030 collector of such municipality, shall furnish such form upon request.
4031 The tax imposed under this section shall be due and payable on the due
4032 date or due dates of such return, as determined by the department of
4033 finance or tax collector, as applicable. The department of finance or tax
4034 collector, as applicable, may require a single annual payment of the tax
4035 imposed under this section or may require semiannual or quarterly
4036 installments of such payment. Such tax shall be due and collectible as
4037 other property taxes and subject to the same liens and processes of
4038 collection.

4039 (d) The revenues generated by the tax imposed under this section
4040 shall become part of the general revenue of the municipality in which
4041 the tax is paid.

4042 (e) If a solar photovoltaic system is located in more than one
4043 municipality, the tax shall be allocated between or among the
4044 municipalities in proportion to the nameplate capacity of the solar
4045 photovoltaic system located in each municipality.

4046 (f) Whenever the tax imposed under this section is not paid when due
4047 to the department of finance or tax collector, as applicable, in a
4048 municipality, interest at the rate of one and one-half per cent per month
4049 or fraction thereof shall accrue on such tax from the due date of such tax
4050 until the date of payment.

4051 (g) Any person claiming to be aggrieved by the action of a
4052 department of finance or tax collector under this section may appeal the
4053 tax to the superior court for the judicial district in which the
4054 municipality is located. Any person appealing the tax that pays a
4055 portion of such tax during the pendency of such appeal and indicates
4056 that such portion is paid "under protest" shall not be liable for any
4057 interest on the tax, provided such person pays not less than seventy-five
4058 per cent of the amount of the tax assessed by the municipality during
4059 the time limits prescribed by the department of finance or tax collector,
4060 as applicable, in such municipality in accordance with this section.

4061 (h) (1) Any municipality acting through its board of selectmen, town
4062 council, court of common council or other legislative body shall have
4063 the power to enter into an agreement to freeze or stabilize the tax
4064 imposed under this section for any owner of a solar photovoltaic system
4065 located in such municipality, as provided in this subsection.

4066 (2) With respect to any photovoltaic system located in more than one
4067 municipality, such agreement shall only pertain to the tax that is
4068 allocated, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of this
4069 section, to the municipality that enters into such agreement.

4070 (i) For purposes of calculating the nameplate capacity of a solar
4071 photovoltaic system, the following shall be deemed to be part of the
4072 same solar photovoltaic system: (1) All equipment and devices that have
4073 the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and generating electricity
4074 by photovoltaic effect that are located on the same parcel; (2) all
4075 equipment and devices that have the primary purpose of collecting solar
4076 energy and generating electricity by photovoltaic effect that are located
4077 on land that the current owner of any part of such land subdivided into
4078 multiple parcels but was part of the same parcel prior to such
4079 subdivision; and (3) all equipment and devices that have the primary
4080 purpose of collecting solar energy and generating electricity by
4081 photovoltaic effect that are located on adjoining parcels. Nothing in this
4082 subsection shall be construed to limit tax liability or the definitions in
4083 subsection (a) of this section.

4084 Sec. 58. Subdivision (57) of section 12-81 of the general statutes is
4085 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
4086 *1, 2025*):

4087 (57) (A) (i) Any Class I renewable energy source, as defined in section
4088 16-1, as amended by this act, or hydropower facility described in
4089 subdivision (21) of subsection (a) of section 16-1, installed for the
4090 generation of electricity where such electricity is intended for private
4091 residential use or on a farm, as defined in subsection (q) of section 1-1,
4092 provided (I) such installation occurs on or after October 1, 2007, (II) the
4093 estimated annual production of such source or facility does not exceed
4094 the estimated annual load for the location where such source or facility
4095 is located, where such load and production are estimated as of the date
4096 of installation of the source or facility as indicated in the written
4097 application filed pursuant to subparagraph [(E)] (G) of this subdivision,
4098 and (III) such installation is for a single family dwelling, a multifamily
4099 dwelling consisting of two to four units or a farm; (ii) any passive or
4100 active solar water or space heating system; or (iii) any geothermal
4101 energy resource. In the case of clause (i) of this subparagraph, the
4102 utilization of or participation in any net metering or tariff policy or
4103 program implemented by the state or ownership of such source or
4104 facility by a party other than the owner of the real property upon which
4105 such source or facility is installed shall not disqualify such source or
4106 facility from exemption pursuant to this section. In the case of clause (ii)
4107 or (iii) of this subparagraph, such exemption shall apply only to the
4108 amount by which the assessed valuation of the real property equipped
4109 with such system or resource exceeds the assessed valuation of such real
4110 property equipped with the conventional portion of the system or
4111 resource;

4112 (B) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2013,
4113 any Class I renewable energy source, as defined in section 16-1, as
4114 amended by this act, hydropower facility described in subdivision (21)
4115 of subsection (a) of section 16-1, or solar thermal or geothermal
4116 renewable energy source, installed for generation or displacement of

4117 energy, provided (i) such installation occurs on or after January 1, 2010,
4118 (ii) such installation is for commercial or industrial purposes, (iii) the
4119 nameplate capacity of such source or facility does not exceed the load
4120 for the location where such generation or displacement is located, and
4121 (iv) such source or facility is located in a distressed municipality, as
4122 defined in section 32-9p, with a population between one hundred
4123 twenty-five thousand and one hundred thirty-five thousand;

4124 (C) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2013,
4125 any municipality may, upon approval by its legislative body or in any
4126 town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by the board of
4127 selectmen, abate up to one hundred per cent of property tax for any
4128 Class I renewable energy source, as defined in section 16-1, as amended
4129 by this act, hydropower facility described in subdivision (21) of
4130 subsection (a) of section 16-1, or solar thermal or geothermal renewable
4131 energy source, installed for generation or displacement of energy,
4132 provided (i) such installation occurs between January 1, 2010, and
4133 December 31, 2013, (ii) such installation is for commercial or industrial
4134 purposes, (iii) the nameplate capacity of such source or facility does not
4135 exceed the load for the location where such generation or displacement
4136 is located, and (iv) such source or facility is not located in a municipality
4137 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision;

4138 (D) [For] Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (E) of this
4139 subdivision, for assessment years commencing on and after October 1,
4140 2014, any (i) Class I renewable energy source, as defined in section 16-1,
4141 as amended by this act, other than a nuclear power generating facility,
4142 (ii) hydropower facility described in subdivision (21) of subsection (a)
4143 of section 16-1, or (iii) solar thermal or geothermal renewable energy
4144 source, installed for generation or displacement of energy, provided (I)
4145 such installation occurs on or after January 1, 2014, (II) is for commercial
4146 or industrial purposes, (III) the nameplate capacity of such source or
4147 facility does not exceed the load for the location where such generation
4148 or displacement is located or the aggregated load of the beneficial
4149 accounts for any Class I renewable energy source participating in virtual

4150 net metering pursuant to section 16-244u, and (IV) in the case of clause
4151 (iii) of this subparagraph, such exemption shall apply only to the
4152 amount by which the assessed valuation of the real property equipped
4153 with such source exceeds the assessed valuation of such real property
4154 equipped with the conventional portion of the source;

4155 (E) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2025,
4156 the exemption provided for under subparagraph (D)(i) of this
4157 subdivision shall apply only to equipment and devices that have the
4158 primary purpose of generating electricity and shall not apply to any real
4159 property on which such equipment and devices are located or installed;

4160 (F) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2025,
4161 any Class I renewable energy source consisting of equipment and
4162 devices that have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and
4163 generating electricity by photovoltaic effect. The exemption under this
4164 subparagraph shall apply only to equipment and devices that have the
4165 primary purpose of generating electricity and shall not apply to any real
4166 property on which such equipment and devices are located or installed;

4167 ~~[(E)]~~ (G) Any person claiming [the] an exemption provided in this
4168 subdivision for any assessment year shall, on or before the first day of
4169 November in such assessment year, file with the assessor or board of
4170 assessors in the town in which such hydropower facility, Class I
4171 renewable energy source, solar thermal or geothermal renewable
4172 energy source or passive or active solar water or space heating system
4173 or geothermal energy resource is located, a written application claiming
4174 such exemption. Such application shall be made on a form prepared for
4175 such purpose by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
4176 in consultation with the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers
4177 and the Connecticut Green Bank established pursuant to section 16-
4178 245n, and shall include, but not be limited to, a statement of the
4179 estimated annual load and production of a source or facility described
4180 in clause (i) of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision as of the date of the
4181 installation of such source or facility. Said secretary shall make such
4182 application available to the public on the Internet web site of the Office

4183 of Policy and Management. Failure to file such application in the
4184 manner and form as provided by the secretary within the time limit
4185 prescribed shall constitute a waiver of the right to such exemption for
4186 such assessment year. Such application shall not be required for any
4187 assessment year following that for which the initial application is filed,
4188 provided if such hydropower facility, Class I renewable energy source,
4189 solar thermal or geothermal renewable energy source or passive or
4190 active solar water or space heating system or geothermal energy
4191 resource is altered in a manner [which] that would require a building
4192 permit, such alteration shall be deemed a waiver of the right to such
4193 exemption until a new application, applicable with respect to such
4194 altered source, is filed and the right to such exemption is established as
4195 required initially. [In the event that] If a person owns more than one
4196 such source or facility in a municipality, such person may file a single
4197 application identifying each source or facility;

4198 [(F)] (H) For assessment years commencing on and after October 1,
4199 2015, any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body or, in a
4200 municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, by vote of
4201 the board of selectmen, abate up to one hundred per cent of the property
4202 taxes due for any tax year, for not longer than the term of the power
4203 purchase agreement, with respect to any Class I renewable energy
4204 source, as defined in section 16-1, as amended by this act, that is the
4205 subject of such power purchase agreement approved by the Public
4206 Utilities Regulatory Authority pursuant to section 16a-3f;

4207 Sec. 59. Section 7 of public act 24-38 is repealed and the following is
4208 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4209 (a) There is established a task force to examine and make
4210 recommendations concerning policy, regulations and legislation to
4211 improve disclosure requirements and consumer protection for
4212 consumers who purchase, lease or enter into power purchase
4213 agreements for solar photovoltaic systems. Such study shall include an
4214 examination of whether special protections are necessary for consumers
4215 who are low-income or senior citizens.

- 4216 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 4217 (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
4218 the commissioner's designee;
- 4219 (2) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or
4220 the chairperson's designee;
- 4221 (3) The Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee;
- 4222 (4) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's
4223 designee;
- 4224 (5) The president of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the president's
4225 designee;
- 4226 (6) Two appointed by the Governor, who shall be members of an
4227 association that represents retailers of solar photovoltaic systems in the
4228 state or retailers of solar photovoltaic systems in the state;
- 4229 (7) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
4230 one of whom shall have experience representing [senior citizens in
4231 matters related to consumer protection or utilities] individuals in
4232 matters related to consumer protection;
- 4233 (8) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
4234 whom shall have experience representing consumer groups, especially
4235 in underserved communities;
- 4236 (9) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
4237 Representatives;
- 4238 (10) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 4239 (11) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
4240 Representatives; and
- 4241 (12) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

4242 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
 4243 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
 4244 be filled by the appointing authority.

4245 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
 4246 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force
 4247 from among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall
 4248 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
 4249 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

4250 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
 4251 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
 4252 technology shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

4253 (f) Not later than January 1, [2025] 2026, the task force shall submit a
 4254 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
 4255 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 4256 relating to energy and technology and general law, in accordance with
 4257 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force
 4258 shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1,
 4259 [2025] 2026, whichever is later."

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

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-244dd
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-262d
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	PA 24-31, Sec. 2
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-244z
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-245e
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-245f(a)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-245g
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-245h(a)

Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-245i
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-245j(b) and (c)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-245k(l)
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-19f(a) and (b)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16-243n
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-32e
Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-32l
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-32m
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 26	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-18a(c)
Sec. 28	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3m(e)
Sec. 31	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-244m
Sec. 32	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 33	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	22a-136
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 35	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-102(a)
Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-1(a)(20)
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-245a
Sec. 38	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3g
Sec. 39	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3h
Sec. 40	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3i(d)
Sec. 41	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3n(c)
Sec. 42	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3p(c)
Sec. 43	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3a(j)
Sec. 44	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	16a-3u
Sec. 45	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 46	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-245m(d)(1)
Sec. 47	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3j(i)
Sec. 48	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16a-3n(a)(3)
Sec. 49	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-2
Sec. 50	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-2a
Sec. 51	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-19b(d)
Sec. 52	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-8c(c)
Sec. 53	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-6b

Sec. 54	<i>from passage</i>	16-19(b)
Sec. 55	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	16-243ee(a)
Sec. 56	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 57	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 58	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	12-81(57)
Sec. 59	<i>from passage</i>	PA 24-38, Sec. 7