



## **2025 Acts Affecting Energy and Utilities**

By: Jessica Schaeffer-Helmecki, Senior Legislative Attorney  
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## Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts) significantly affecting energy and utilities enacted during the 2025 regular legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Environment, are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden. Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the [General Assembly's website](#) of the Connecticut State Library.

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## **Billing**

### ***Fire Fighters Cancer Relief Program***

The state's Fire Fighters Cancer Relief Program provides workers' compensation-like benefits to firefighters who have certain cancers and meet other criteria. To help support the program, starting January 1, 2026, a new law requires telephone service providers (including cell phone and Internet phone service providers) to charge each subscriber a new fee of five cents per month, per service line unless the subscriber opts out. The collected funds must be deposited into the firefighters cancer relief account that funds the program's benefits ([PA 25-168](#), § 407, effective upon passage).

### ***Public Benefit Study***

A new law requires the Office of Consumer Council (OCC) to study line items under the combined public benefits charge on electric distribution company (EDC, i.e. Eversource and United Illuminating) bills. The study must include the enabling authority to impose each line item on customers' bills and its purpose, costs, and benefits. OCC must report its findings to the Energy and Technology Committee by October 1, 2026 ([PA 25-173](#), § 18, effective upon passage).

### ***Time-Varying Rates for EDCs***

A new law requires EDCs to apply to the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) to implement time-varying rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers. PURA must open a docket to evaluate EDC applications by October 1, 2027. The act sets various requirements for time-varying rates, including that they have a clearly defined opt-out process. The act requires EDCs to design a comprehensive customer education and engagement program to encourage customers to use time-varying rates ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 19-21, most provisions effective July 1, 2025).

## **Electric Grid and Infrastructure**

### ***EDC Votes at ISO-New England***

A new law requires EDCs to annually report to PURA on each recorded vote it cast at an ISO-New England (a regional transmission organization) meeting during the previous year. The EDCs must also report on votes cast by their corporate affiliates, and the report must explain how each vote was cast in the public's interest ([PA 25-173](#) § 29, October 1, 2025).

### ***Electric System Efficiency Goal***

This session the legislature established electric system efficiency as a state goal to maximize the efficiency and use of the electric transmission and distribution systems to reduce structural

inefficiencies. It enacted legislation that outlines certain steps the state must take to achieve this goal (e.g., analyzing customer usage patterns and developing incentives to encourage energy generated by behind-the-meter distributed solar facilities). It allows PURA and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to set related goals and metrics and requires DEEP to allocate staff to conduct certain studies and planning. It requires DEEP to annually report (through 2041) to the Energy and Technology Committee on load factors, adopted policies, and recommended policies related to the electric system efficiency goal ([PA 25-173](#), § 56, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs)***

Under a new law, companies seeking Siting Council approval to construct certain transmission projects must include a project alternative that uses an advanced conductor or GETs, such as dynamic line rating or advanced power flow control. The act allows companies to seek a waiver from this requirement and makes limited exceptions to it. The act also increases reporting requirements and creates a process for DEEP and OCC to evaluate scheduled projects ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 25 & 26, October 1, 2025).

### ***ISO-New England Membership Requirement***

A new law requires EDCs that own or control certain transmission equipment to join ISO-New England. In practice, both EDCs already belong to the organization, but making membership mandatory may affect transmission rates. (The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) allows members to charge higher rates as an incentive to join regional transmission organizations like ISO-New England. FERC declined to allow this rate “adder” in states that require membership ([PA 25-173](#), § 28, effective upon passage).)

## **Emergency Planning**

### ***Emergency Planning and Lineworker Safety***

Legislation enacted this session requires EDCs to establish emergency service restoration planning committees that include line and restoration crew members and prohibits the companies from requiring these employees to work in unsafe conditions. After emergencies that cause large outages, the planning committees must review how EDCs implemented their post-emergency service restoration plan, which must include measures to protect line and restoration crews during an emergency. Existing law requires EDCs to make certain payments to residential customers for prolonged outages after an emergency. The new legislation prohibits EDCs from retaliating against a line and restoration crew member solely because the employee caused the company to fail to

restore service by specific deadlines, requiring the company to issue payments or credits to customers ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 22-24, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Solar Facility Emergency Preparedness Program***

A new law requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner to establish a solar photovoltaic facility emergency preparedness program, which must (1) develop a solar photovoltaic facility emergency response plan, and (2) annually train state and local emergency response personnel on emergency response. It also establishes an account to fund the program and specifies that it must contain any federal reimbursements or grants related to the preparedness program ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 273 & 274, effective October 1, 2025).

## **Energy Assistance**

### ***Hardship and Medical Protections***

In addition to authorizing bonding for hardship protections (see below), a new law directs PURA to study (1) the duration of the winter shutoff moratorium and (2) criteria and standards for termination and disconnection protections for medically protected gas and EDC customers. PURA must report its recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by March 16, 2026 ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 1 & 4, effective July 1, 2025, except the study provision is effective upon passage).

### ***Low-Income Discount Rates***

A new law requires PURA to implement cost containment measures when setting low-income rates, including a usage cap and a recertification process to confirm customer eligibility. PURA must report to the Energy and Technology Committee on any low income rates implemented between January 1, 2024, and December 1, 2028 ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 7 & 8, effective July 1, 2025, except the reporting provision is effective upon passage).

## **Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

### ***Demand Response Pilot Program***

Under a new law, the DEEP commissioner must establish an electric active demand and gas demand response pilot program to (1) reduce electric and gas demand and (2) improve grid resiliency and reliability. As part of the pilot program, she may solicit providers of active or passive demand response measures and direct EDCs or gas companies, on behalf of their customers, to enter contracts for measures that result in electric or gas savings. Each agreement is subject to PURA approval. Agreement costs are recoverable through customer bills. The DEEP commissioner

must report on the pilot program's effectiveness and make recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 1, 2028 ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 45 & 46, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Residential Heat Pump Systems Plan***

This session, the legislature enacted a law requiring the DEEP commissioner to develop a plan for installing efficient heat pumps for affordable heating and cooling systems in the state. The plan must (1) provide for making affordable heat pump options available and (2) describe how the state could best use any available or future grant or loan funding. By January 1, 2027, the DEEP commissioner must report to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees on the plan's status and any recommendations for expanding or revising the plan ([PA 25-125](#), § 9, October 1, 2025).

### ***Thermal Energy Network Grants and Loans***

A new law requires the DEEP commissioner to establish a thermal energy network grant and loan program, within available appropriations, to support the development of thermal energy network projects on the customer's side of an electric meter. Thermal energy network projects are utility-scale distribution infrastructure projects that supply thermal energy (e.g., from geothermal sources) piped to transfer heat into and out of buildings for any heating and cooling process ([PA 25-173](#), § 32, effective October 1, 2025)

## **Nuclear Energy**

### ***Advanced Nuclear Reactor Energy Site Readiness Funding Program***

This session the legislature directed DEEP to establish an advanced nuclear reactor site readiness funding program and authorized up to \$5 million in state bonds to fund it. Under the program, eligible recipients (e.g., municipalities, regional councils of governments, and higher education institutions) may be awarded grants or loans to support certain activities, like technical studies and infrastructure assessments, related to readying sites for advanced nuclear reactor facilities ([PA 25-173](#), § 34, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***DEEP Atomic Development Activity Coordination Duties***

The DEEP commissioner is responsible for coordinating all atomic development activities in the state. A new law adds to these duties, requiring the commissioner to be a point of contact for public and private stakeholders to help them comply with federal, state, and local requirements related to atomic development (e.g., siting considerations and permitting) ([PA 25-173](#), § 35, October 1, 2025).



## ***Millstone and Standard Service***

Under a 2017 law, DEEP solicited proposals for zero-carbon energy and selected bids from, among others, Millstone Power Station in Waterford and Seabrook Station in New Hampshire. This session, a new law allows EDCs to use energy or related products from selected nuclear facilities for standard service, if doing so is in customers' best interests. The act requires EDCs to (1) consult with PURA and OCC when electing to use energy or related products for standard service and (2) obtain PURA's approval to incorporate the products into standard service ([PA 25-173](#), § 30, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***New Nuclear Construction***

The law generally prohibits new nuclear facilities from being constructed in the state. This session, the legislature created a new exception from this prohibition, allowing for advanced nuclear reactors that meet certain requirements (e.g., municipal approval). It also expands DEEP's duties related to atomic development activity point of contact for public and private stakeholders to help them comply with federal, state, and local requirements related to atomic development (e.g., siting considerations and permitting) ([PA 25-173](#), § 33, October 1, 2025).

## ***Nuclear By-Product Material Definitional Changes***

Legislation passed this session expands the types of "by-product materials" subject to the state's atomic energy laws to include certain materials made with fusion machines, to align with changes in federal law. Under prior law, "by-product material" included any material that was made radioactive with a particle accelerator for commercial medical, or research uses. Under the new legislation, it also includes any material made radioactive with a fusion machine, regardless of use ([PA 25-170](#), §§ 2 & 3 effective upon passage).

## **Power Procurements**

### ***Biomass Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)***

This session, the legislature passed a law that requires the DEEP commissioner, by September 1, 2025, to solicit proposals from eligible biomass facilities for energy, capacity, and environmental attributes. To be eligible, a facility must meet current Class I requirements and have entered into at least one existing biomass PPA ([PA 25-173](#), § 44, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Contract Terms***

An existing law authorized DEEP and PURA to issue a solicitation for zero-carbon electricity-generating resources and to direct the EDCs to enter agreements with selected entities to purchase

energy, capacity, and other environmental attributes. A new law allows contracts with selected hydropower or nuclear facilities to have the same term as another state selects in a multistate procurement. The law otherwise requires contracts with nuclear facilities to be for at least three years and no more than 10 years ([PA 25-173](#), § 30, effective October 1, 2025).

### ***Integrated Resources Plan and Renewable Procurements***

This session, the legislature required DEEP to propose a schedule, in the next Integrated Resources Plan, for power procurement solicitations for new zero carbon Class I renewable energy resources needed to achieve an additional 7% of total load served by EDCs by 2030. These procurements are in addition to existing renewal portfolio standard (RPS) requirements. It additionally requires DEEP to set targets for energy procured under existing power procurement authorizations ([PA 25-173](#), § 43, effective October 1, 2025).

## **PURA and OCC**

### ***Agency Consultants***

Prior law allowed DEEP and PURA to retain consultants for certain federal proceedings, but only in consultation with other state agencies and, for PURA, only for proceedings for one federal agency. A new law broadens this authorization, allowing DEEP, PURA, and the OCC to independently retain consultants for proceedings or negotiations with various federal agencies (e.g., FERC, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, among others) ([PA 25-173](#), § 27, October 1, 2025).

### ***Office of Consumer Counsel Transaction Information and Consultants***

By law, PURA may require holding companies and their subsidiaries to produce documents related to their transactions with a public service company and have those transactions audited. A new law requires the companies and subsidiaries to also provide this information to the OCC and establishes confidentiality requirements with which OCC and its staff must comply.

The new law also allows OCC's and DEEP's costs for retaining consultants to participate in Siting Counsel proceedings, among other things, to be covered under EDCs' retail transmission rates. (Under existing law PURA must design these rates to provide recovery for all FERC-approved transmission costs ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 50-52, effective October 1, 2025).)

## ***PURA Separated From DEEP***

This session, the legislature passed legislation that changes the relationship between two energy-related agencies by placing PURA within DEEP for administrative purposes only. Among other things, this explicitly allows PURA to exercise its regulatory authority without DEEP's approval or control.

The act also makes changes related to (1) commissioner terms; (2) decisions, requiring votes be put into writing and posted on PURA's website; (3) panels (e.g., requiring rate adjustment proceedings be before all commissioners, rather than a panel of them); and (4) employment restrictions (e.g., expanding "revolving door" restrictions limiting post-PURA employment and appearances before it) ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 49 & 53, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Rate Case Deadlines***

Under certain circumstances, a new law gives PURA additional time to make decisions on rate amendments. When a larger regulated utility (with over 75,000 customers) files a rate amendment within 60 days of another larger regulated utility, the act allows PURA to extend the statutory time limit by up to 90 days. Under the prior law, for EDC or gas company rate amendments, PURA was required to make a finding within 350 days of the proposed amendment's effective date ([PA 25-173](#), § 54, effective upon passage).

## ***Third Parties Administering Programs***

Existing law allows PURA to select a third party, including the Green Bank, DEEP, or an EDC, to administer renewable energy tariffs and electric vehicle (EV) charging programs. A new law allows PURA to do this for any ratepayer funded clean energy or renewable energy program PURA establishes in a rate proceeding. The new law requires PURA to make their selection based on evidence recorded in an uncontested proceeding ([PA 25-173](#), § 17, effective October 1, 2025).

## **Renewable Energy and Tariffs**

### ***Class I Renewable Energy Sources***

Under a new act, landfill methane gas and certain biomass facilities are no longer Class I renewable energy sources. This means that renewable energy credits produced by these facilities may not be used to meet an EDC's or electric supplier's Class I RPS requirements. It also makes them ineligible to participate in certain power procurements administered by DEEP and for certain benefits available to Class I sources (e.g., property tax exemptions) ([PA 25-173](#), § 36, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Class I Renewable Portfolio Standard***

The state's RPS law requires EDCs and retail suppliers to procure an increasing portion of the power from certain renewable and other clean energy resources. A new law reduces Class I RPS requirements by seven percentage points in years 2026 to 2030. It additionally requires PURA to establish procedures to dispose of renewable energy certificates (RECs) purchased under renewable energy tariffs and various energy procurement solicitations ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 37-42 & 47, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Renewable Energy Tariffs***

A new law limits eligibility for renewable energy tariffs (i.e. the Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions program (NRES), the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions program (RRES), and the Shared Clean Energy Facility program (SCEF)) to zero-emissions projects by (1) making low-emission projects (e.g., fuel cells) ineligible for NRES and (2) requiring RRES and SCEF projects to emit no pollutants. Starting January 1, 2026, the act requires PURA to add a 3.25 cent charge for RRES participants. The act also expands the contents of an upcoming PURA study on the tariffs and extends the deadline for the study ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 6 & 9, effective October 1, 2025, except the study changes are effective upon passage).

## **Solar**

### ***Municipal Uniform Solar Capacity Tax***

A new law establishes a municipal uniform solar capacity tax of \$10,000 per megawatt (MW) of nameplate capacity on certain solar photovoltaic systems (i.e. solar panels) that are over one MW in size and receive permission to operate from an EDC or a municipal electric utility on or after July 1, 2026. The tax does not apply to systems (1) at specific locations (e.g., on state-owned land, brownfields, or residential rooftops) or (2) that are part of a microgrid serving a critical facility (e.g., hospitals, police stations, or commercial areas).

Generally, the tax applies for 20 years, but municipalities may enter agreements to stabilize or freeze it. Among other things, the act designates revenue from the tax as municipal revenue and sets an appeal process ([PA 25-173](#), § 57, effective July 1, 2026).

### ***Plan for Installing Solar Photovoltaic Systems on State Properties***

This session, the legislature passed a requirement that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), by January 1, 2026, develop a plan to install solar photovoltaic systems on developed state properties and submit the plan to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Government Administration and Elections committees ([PA 25-174](#), § 136, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Property Tax Exemption for Class I Renewable Energy Sources***

Starting with the 2025 assessment year, a new law creates a property tax exemption for Class I renewable energy sources that consist of equipment and devices that primarily collect solar energy and generate energy by photovoltaic effect. The act limits this exemption by applying it only to equipment and devices with the primary purpose of generating electricity and not to any real property where the equipment or devices are located or installed.

Relatedly, the act applies this same limitation to an existing property tax exemption for Class I renewable energy sources (other than nuclear power generating facilities) (1) installed on or after January 1, 2014; (2) for commercial or industrial purposes; and (3) with a nameplate capacity that does not exceed the location's load or, if the facility is participating in virtual net metering, the aggregated load of its beneficial accounts ([PA 25-173](#), § 58, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Solar Canopy Strategic Plan***

A new law requires PURA to study developing a solar canopy strategic plan and program design. The plan must (1) identify opportunities for solar canopies in the state and examine methods to promote them; (2) prioritize their development in environmental justice communities; and (3) recommend policies, programs and regulations that would promote their construction according to greenhouse gas reduction goals. The PURA chairperson must report the study results to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 15, 2027 ([PA 25-125](#), § 13, effective upon passage).

## ***Solar Consumer Protection Task Force***

[PA 24-38](#) established a task force to examine and make recommendations to improve protections for consumers who purchase, lease, or enter into PPAs for solar facilities. A new law delays the task force's reporting deadline by one year, requiring it to report its findings to the Energy and Technology and General Law committees by January 1, 2025 ([PA 25-173](#), § 59, effective upon passage).

## ***Solar Developers' Decommissioning Bond***

A new law prohibits the Connecticut Siting Council from approving by declaratory ruling a two-megawatt or more solar photovoltaic facility on prime farmland or forestland unless the applicant provides a decommissioning bond (e.g., a bond to cover the costs of decommissioning the facility and restoring the land). Existing law already prohibits the council from issuing a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need approving a two-megawatt or more solar photovoltaic facility on prime farmland or forestland unless the project applicant provides a decommissioning bond ([PA 25-127](#), effective upon passage).

## **State Funding and Financing**

### ***Electric Grid Benefits and Energy Efficiency Funding***

A new law authorizes up to \$500 million in general obligation (GO) bonds over two years, in amounts of up to \$250 million per year in FY 26 and FY 27, for the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to make energy-related investments. Specifically, OPM must use the proceeds to (1) benefit the operation of the state's electric grid; (2) promote energy efficiency; (3) benefit ratepayers; (4) reduce the annual costs of hardship protection measures and other hardship protections within the systems benefits charge, to their average annual cost in the five years from 2016 to 2020, inclusive, before the COVID-19 pandemic; and (5) fund EV charging programs ([PA 25-174](#), § 118, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Electric Vehicles***

PURA established an EV charging program in 2021. A new law authorizes up to \$50 million in GO bonds to fund the program (\$30 million in FY 26 and \$20 million in FY 27) and requires PURA to limit program expenses for light-duty EV charging activities to \$20 million per year. It also limits eligibility for residential single family customer program to residents who live in a concentrated poverty census tract or have incomes below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 2 & 3, effective October 1, 2025, except the bonding authorization is effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Hardship and Medical Protections***

A new law authorizes up to \$250 million in GO bonds (\$125 million each for FYs 26 and 27) to reduce the annual cost of hardship protection measures charged to EDC customers to pre-COVID-19 pandemic amounts ([PA 25-173](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025)

### ***Securitization for Certain EDC Costs***

Securitization is a financing tool that utilities can use to spread out costs over a longer period of time. This process typically requires enabling legislation and public utility commission approval of a financing order for bonds backed by the competitive transition assessment on ratepayer bills. A new law authorizes securitization of certain costs ("financed utility services"), including those for storms and advanced metering infrastructure deployment. The act allows PURA to determine that issuing "rate reduction bonds" is in ratepayers' best interests in response to an EDC petition or on its own motion. The aggregate principal bond amounts are capped at \$2.2 billion ([PA 25-173](#), §§ 10-16, effective October 1, 2025).

## **State Planning and Properties**

### ***Agency Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals***

A new law establishes a series of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals for state agencies, ultimately to be net-zero by 2050. The act allows state agencies to consider the social costs of GHG emissions (e.g., harms to human health, property damage, and the value of ecosystem services). By January 1, 2026, the DEEP commissioner must post guidelines on the social cost of GHG on the department's website ([PA 25-125](#), § 1, effective from passage).

### ***Connecticut Clean Economy Council***

This session, the legislature established the Connecticut Clean Economy Council (CCEC) to advise on strategies and policies to strengthen the state's climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs, particularly for vulnerable communities. Among other things, the act requires the CCEC to develop a plan to transition workers from fossil-fuel-based jobs to clean economy jobs, and biennially submit a report to the governor, OPM, and specified legislative committees on its work, findings, and recommendations ([PA 25-125](#), §§ 6 & 7, effective upon passage).

### ***Greenhouse Gas Reduction — Connecticut Requirements***

The state's Global Warming Solutions Act sets mandatory GHG reduction targets for the state. This session, the legislature changed the reduction targets (1) for 2040, adding a requirement that emissions be reduced to at least 65% below 2001 emission levels, and (2) for 2050, adding that, in addition to reducing GHG levels by at least 80% below the 2001 levels, the state must also achieve economy-wide net zero.

Under this new law, DEEP is also required to annually publish an inventory on GHG emission sources and carbon sequestrations. Among other things, the law also moves up by one year (to January 1, 2026) the date by which it must deliver its report on quantifiable GHG to the Energy and Technology, Environment, and Transportation committees ([PA 25-125](#), §§ 2 & 3, effective from passage).

### ***Higher Education Constituent Units and Energy-Savings Performance Contracts***

A new law allows a constituent unit of higher education to establish its own energy-savings performance contract process, rather than using DEEP's standardized process, but subject to many of the same provisions required by law for DEEP's process. By law, municipalities and state



agencies (including constituent units of higher education) may participate in DEEP's process, but previously only municipalities could establish their own process.

Under existing law and the act, an energy-savings performance contract is a contract entered into with a qualified energy service provider to evaluate, recommend, and implement energy savings measures (improvements that reduce energy or water consumption and operating costs and increase efficiency). Among other things, the contract must guarantee annual savings that at least equal the annual contract payments made over the life of the contract.

By law, the constituent units of higher education are the (1) University of Connecticut, including all its campuses, and (2) Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, including the state universities, regional community technical colleges, and Charter Oak State College ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 141 & 142, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***State Building Efficiency, and Heating and Cooling Systems***

Legislation enacted this session requires DAS, by January 1, 2026, to develop a (1) process for considering certain energy-related aspects when deciding to repair or build state real assets under its authority and (2) plan and budget to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and cooling systems to those that operate without carbon-emitting fuels ([PA 25-125](#), § 11, effective upon passage).

## **Water and Sewer**

### ***Foreclosure and Assignment of Liens for Delinquent Sewer Assessments and Charges***

A new law generally limits the foreclosure and assignment of liens for delinquent sewer assessments and charges on owner-occupied real estate by municipal and regional sewer or water pollution control authorities. But the act's restrictions do not apply in certain circumstances, such as when the lien's principal amount exceeds \$3,000 or three years have passed since the lien was filed and it remains unpaid ([PA 25-150](#), effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to actions filed on or after that date).

### ***New Water Quality and Treatment Surcharge***

Legislation enacted this session allows regulated water companies to recover, through a separate line item on customers' bills, their expenses for projects, such as infrastructure upgrades, that are necessary to meet certain state or federal drinking water regulations (e.g., on PFAS, lead, or other contaminants). Before they may do so, PURA must approve the projects and the surcharge amount



through a process the act creates, outside normal rate cases. The water companies must notify customers when the surcharge is applied, through bill inserts or other direct communication, and comply with reporting and other requirements. The act caps the surcharge (relative to the company's annual retail water revenues) and requires the amount be billed in at least 12-month increments ([PA 25-142](#), effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Public Water Systems***

A new law updates the statutory process for reviewing and approving new public water systems to reflect current practice, generally requiring the Department of Public Health (DPH) to adopt regulations with requirements for (1) an application and approval process; (2) location restrictions and construction; (3) water quality testing, monitoring, and treatment; and (4) related inspections ([PA 25-96](#), § 19, effective upon passage).

### ***Sewage Treatment Systems***

This session, the legislature expanded DPH's authority over alternative on-site sewage treatment systems to include those with a daily capacity of up to 10,000 gallons, instead of up to 5,000 gallons as under prior law. It requires the department to amend its regulations to establish and define discharge categories for these systems and set minimum requirements for them.

The act also authorizes the commissioner to (1) implement policies and procedures while in the process of adopting regulations for alternative on-site and subsurface sewage systems under its jurisdiction (certain small community sewerage systems and household and small commercial subsurface sewage disposal systems). Additionally, it allows the DPH commissioner to issue and update technical standards on the alternative systems and requires her to do this so for subsurface sewage systems ([PA 25-96](#), §§ 17 & 18, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***State Water Plan***

A new law requires the state water plan's next update to (1) consider (a) the potential impact of climate change on water resource quality and (b) temperatures and precipitation information when identifying water quantities and qualities for various uses and (2) include recommendations and an implementation plan for reducing effects on water from climate change and extreme weather. By law, the Water Planning Council is responsible for preparing and periodically updating the state water plan, which is used to manage the state's water resources ([PA 25-33](#), § 19, effective July 1, 2025).

## ***Water Fluoridation***

This session, the legislature codified the amount of fluoride that water companies must add to the water supply, rather than tying the amount to federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recommendations as current law does. In doing so, it maintains the current required level (but HHS recently directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reexamine the federal recommendation) ([PA 25-168](#), § 169, effective upon passage).

## ***Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Regulation and Permit Review***

On a 10-year basis beginning by the end of 2028, a new law requires DEEP, DPH, and PURA to (1) review their respective water supply regulations and (2) revise them to include the most concurrent projections on precipitation, temperature, and other conditions that could impact water quality, quantity, and distribution. The act also requires DEEP and DPH to each review and revise their sewage disposal system permitting processes and related regulations to include the most concurrent projections on precipitation, flooding, sea level rise, and other conditions that could impact public safety and environmental quality ([PA 25-33](#), § 20, effective July 1, 2025).

## **Miscellaneous**

### ***Annual Adjustments to Prevailing Wage Rates for Certain Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Projects***

Existing law requires contractors awarded contracts for state and municipal prevailing wage projects to adjust wage and benefit contributions each July 1 during the contract to reflect changes in the prevailing wage. A new law extends this requirement to contractors awarded contracts for renewable energy and hydrogen projects subject to prevailing wage requirements ([CGS § 31-53d](#)). As for the projects covered under existing law, these contractors must contact the labor commissioner by each July 1 during the contract to find out the current prevailing wage and contribution rates ([PA 25-168](#), § 147, effective July 1, 2025).

### ***Elimination of Program for Certain Energy Storage Systems***

An existing law requires PURA to initiate a proceeding to develop and implement programs for electric energy storage systems connected to the electric distribution system, including programs for (1) residential customers, (2) commercial and industrial customers, and (3) front-of-the-meter storage systems not located on a customer's premises. This session, the legislature eliminated requirements for the third type of program ([PA 25-173](#), § 55, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Energy Costs Report***

Legislation enacted this session requires DEEP, in consultation with the OCC, to report to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees by February 1, 2026, on lowering energy costs, increasing community extreme weather resilience, and contributing to GHG emission reductions ([PA 25-125](#), § 14, effective upon passage).

## ***Inspections of Support Services for Offshore Wind Projects***

Existing law authorizes DEEP to solicit proposals for electricity from offshore wind providers and transmission providers. Selected bidders generally must agree to use their best efforts when hiring or contracting for support services (e.g., serving as a safety vessel in a construction zone) to use state commercial fishing licensees, which must go through an inspection before providing these services. A new law expands who may conduct these inspections to include inspectors accredited by the United States National Association of Marine Surveyors ([PA 25-173](#), § 48, effective October 1, 2025).

## ***Net Equality Program***

A new law requires the DEEP commissioner to develop, establish, and start administering the Net Equality Program by September 30, 2026. As part of the program, a qualified broadband Internet access service provider must (1) allow eligible people to request to subscribe to affordable broadband Internet access service; (2) make a commercially reasonable effort to raise public awareness on the availability of affordable broadband; and (3) have enrollment procedures for affordable broadband on its website and advertisements ([PA 25-113](#), § 1, effective July 1, 2025).

JSH:ms