

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-316

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TESTING OF SOILS AT CERTAIN SOLAR FACILITIES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	131,304	81,304
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	34,001	34,001
CT Siting Council	SCF - Cost	50,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund; SCF=Siting Council Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires certain applicants and petitioners for solar photovoltaic facilities to conduct soil tests at proposed locations. This results in a cost to the state of approximately \$215,305 in FY 27 and \$115,305 annually, thereafter.

Under the bill, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) are responsible for ensuring that applicants and petitioners meet the new requirements of the bill. It is estimated that DEEP will require one full-time Environmental Analyst 2, with an annual salary of \$81,304 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$34,001. The new position will be

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

responsible for overseeing soil collection and working with operators of solar photovoltaic facilities to ensure that requirements of the bill are being met.

Additionally, both DEEP and the CSC will incur one-time environmental consulting fees (estimated to be \$50,000 each based on similar contracts). The scope of DEEP's consulting work will include educating involved parties in site investigation and certification procedures, and the CSC will require a consultant to help develop guidelines for applicants and petitioners to provide soil testing results prior to certificate and declaratory ruling submissions, as well as requirements to ensure additional testing after two years, which is required by the bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, except for the consulting fees which would be one-time in nature.