

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-320 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP CONCERNING ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AND ELECTRIC GRID CAPACITY PLANNING.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/5/2026

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Energy and Technology Committee](#)

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Rep. Aundre Bumgardner, 41st Dist.](#)

[Rep. Mary M. Mushinsky, 85th Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires that the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) convenes a working group that will make a report, due on July 1st of 2027, on the siting and use of electric transmission facilities and electric grid capacity planning in the state.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Claire Coleman, Consumer Counsel, Office of Consumer Counsel:](#)

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) offers their general support for the idea behind the bill, including its goal to identify areas of improved efficiency. Working groups provide the ability for professionals to come together and discuss potential solutions, which OCC supports. However, OCC stresses that this working group should be further specified as to its mandate, focus, and potential goals. Since OCC and additional Connecticut agencies all have ongoing projects in these areas and have cognizance, OCC would like further clarification on the working group. OCC welcomes the opportunity to contribute to these conversations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Vincent Pace, Assistant General Counsel, and Jacob Lucas, Vice President of Transmission and System Planning, Eversource Energy:

Eversource Energy agrees that siting and interconnection processes should strive to be efficient and equitable and supports a study. However, to achieve the goal of such study being completed by July 1st, 2027, Eversource would like to work with the Committee to refine the bill's text to specify the scope of the study. Eversource also appreciates that the Bill allows for representatives of electric distribution companies to participate in the study.

Christie Prescott, Vice President of Regulatory for United Illuminating (UI):

UI **supports** this bill and appreciates the inclusion of electric distribution companies such as UI. UI is prepared to support the effort.

Michael Treadwell, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 42:

IBEW Local 42 is in support of this bill but would like to add language that includes a change to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) Stakeholder Participation program that would expand eligibility to include labor organizations. This would enhance PURA's process by providing workforce expertise, creating further safety and reliability in the grid, and supports Connecticut's energy transition goals.

Cary Lynch, Policy Manager, The Nature Conservancy:

The Nature Conservancy **supports** this bill, as integrating clean energy resources into transmission projects is vital for reducing pollution. The Nature Conservancy has multiple recommendations, which include:

1. Examining the cost-effectiveness of transmission procurement at the state level.
2. Include a broader range of Grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) and advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) in transmission projects.
3. Examining methods to increase project transparency and engagement.
4. Expanding transmission planning coordination from community to interregional scales.
5. Including environmental conservation priorities in project planning and development.

Peter Myers, Senior Policy Director, Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA):

The CBIA **supports** this bill but requests the inclusion of the business community. Including the business community as its large commercial and industrial users operate complex facilities, make long-term capital investments, and must plan years in advance to grow. It would additionally be a first step in more meaningful engagement of employers.

Todd Piskura, Asset Care Manager, BD Medical – Medication Delivery Solutions:

BD Medical **supports** this bill **but** urges that an advanced manufacturing representative should be added, as it will strengthen the final report of the working group. Companies such as BD operate the most energy-intensive facilities, and have direct experience with the operations that are required for grid stability.

Two individuals offered their general support for the bill. These individuals are:

Susan Chapin, and **Adam Grady**.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Four anonymous individuals offered testimony in opposition due to reasons unrelated to the bill.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

[Amanda Trinsey Devito, Counsel, Connecticut Industrial Energy Consumers \(CIEC\):](#)

CIEC is generally supportive of the formation of a working group but does not understand why cost allocation of utility assets should be decided outside of the regulatory framework of PURA. CIEC also believes that there should be a designee from the business community that is a large end user of electricity in Connecticut. CIEC believes that it is imperative that the bill is revised to reflect these concerns.

Reported by: Abigail Lockwood

Date: March 26th, 2026