



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 144***

LCO No. 829



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT PROVIDING FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATION ON THE  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16-50j of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2026*):

4 (a) There is established the Connecticut Siting Council, hereinafter  
5 referred to in this chapter as the "council", which shall be within the  
6 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for administrative  
7 purposes only.

8 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the council  
9 shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
10 Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (2) the chairperson of the  
11 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or the chairperson's designee; (3)  
12 one designee of the speaker of the House and one designee of the  
13 president pro tempore of the Senate; and (4) five public members, to be  
14 appointed by the Governor, at least two of whom shall be experienced  
15 in the field of ecology, and all five of whom shall, consistent with the

16 provisions of section 4-9a, have no substantial financial interest in, not  
17 be employed in or by, and not be professionally affiliated with any (A)  
18 utility, (B) facility, (C) hazardous waste facility, as defined in section  
19 22a-115, or (D) ash residue disposal area, and shall have had no  
20 professional affiliation with any such utility, facility, hazardous waste  
21 facility or ash residue disposal area for three years preceding such  
22 public member's appointment to the council.

23 (c) For proceedings under chapter 445, the council shall consist of (1)  
24 the Commissioners of Public Health and Emergency Services and Public  
25 Protection or their designated representatives; (2) the designees of the  
26 speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore  
27 of the Senate as provided in subsection (b) of this section; (3) the five  
28 public members as provided in subsection (b) of this section; and (4) four  
29 ad hoc members, appointed by the chief elected official of the  
30 municipality each such member represents, three of whom shall be  
31 electors from the municipality in which the proposed facility is to be  
32 located and one of whom shall be an elector from a neighboring  
33 municipality likely to be most affected by the proposed facility.

34 (d) For any proceeding that occurs on or after the effective date of this  
35 section, in addition to the membership provided for in subsection (b) or  
36 (c) of this section, as applicable, the council shall consist of one elector  
37 from the municipality in which such facility is proposed to be located,  
38 as appointed by the chief elected official of such municipality. In the  
39 event that such facility will be located in two or more municipalities,  
40 one such elector shall be appointed by the applicable regional council of  
41 governments for the affected municipalities. Each such member shall  
42 serve as a nonvoting member for purposes of such proceeding and shall  
43 abide by all applicable rules of confidentiality concerning such  
44 proceeding.

45 [(d)] (e) For the appointment of ad hoc members in accordance with  
46 subsection (c) of this section, the municipality most affected by the  
47 proposed facility shall be determined by the permanent members of the  
48 council. If any one of the five public members or of the designees of the

49 speaker of the House of Representatives or the president pro tempore of  
50 the Senate resides (1) in the municipality in which a hazardous waste  
51 facility is proposed to be located for a proceeding concerning a  
52 hazardous waste facility or in which a low-level radioactive waste  
53 facility is proposed to be located for a proceeding concerning a low-level  
54 radioactive waste facility, or (2) in the neighboring municipality likely  
55 to be most affected by the proposed facility, the appointing authority  
56 shall appoint a substitute member for the proceedings on such proposal.  
57 If any appointee is unable to perform such appointee's duties on the  
58 council due to illness, or has a substantial financial or employment  
59 interest which is in conflict with the proper discharge of the appointee's  
60 duties under this chapter, the appointing authority shall appoint a  
61 substitute member for proceedings on such proposal. An appointee  
62 shall report any substantial financial or employment interest which  
63 might conflict with the proper discharge of the appointee's duties under  
64 this chapter to the appointing authority who shall determine if such  
65 conflict exists. If any state agency is the applicant, an appointee shall not  
66 be deemed to have a substantial employment conflict of interest because  
67 of employment with the state unless such appointee is directly  
68 employed by the state agency making the application. Ad hoc members  
69 shall continue their membership until the council issues a letter of  
70 completion of the development and management plan to the applicant.

71 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The chairperson of the council shall be appointed by the  
72 Governor from among the five public members appointed by the  
73 Governor, with the advice and consent of the House or Senate, and shall  
74 serve as chairperson at the pleasure of the Governor.

75 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) The public members of the council, including the chairperson,  
76 the members appointed by the speaker of the House and president pro  
77 tempore of the Senate and the four ad hoc members specified in  
78 subsection (c) of this section, shall be compensated for their attendance  
79 at public hearings, executive sessions, or other council business as may  
80 require their attendance at the rate of two hundred dollars, provided in  
81 no case shall the daily compensation exceed two hundred dollars.

82     ~~[(g)]~~ (h) The council shall employ such employees as may be  
83 necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and such  
84 employees shall, in the aggregate, have sufficient expertise in  
85 engineering and financial analysis to carry out the provisions of this  
86 chapter.

87     ~~[(h)]~~ (i) The council shall, in addition to its other duties prescribed in  
88 this chapter, adopt, amend, or rescind suitable regulations to carry out  
89 the provisions of this chapter and the policies and practices of the  
90 council in connection therewith, and appoint and prescribe the duties of  
91 such staff as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.  
92 The chairperson of the council, with the consent of five or more other  
93 members of the council, may appoint an executive director, who shall  
94 be the chief administrative officer of the Connecticut Siting Council. The  
95 executive director shall be exempt from classified service.

96     ~~[(i)]~~ (j) Prior to commencing any hearing pursuant to section 16-50m,  
97 the council shall consult with and solicit written comments from (1) the  
98 Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection, Public Health,  
99 Agriculture, Economic and Community Development and  
100 Transportation and the Council on Environmental Quality, the Public  
101 Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Office of Policy and Management  
102 and the Office of Consumer Counsel, and (2) in a hearing pursuant to  
103 section 16-50m, for a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection  
104 (a) of section 16-50i, the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
105 Protection, the Department of Administrative Services, the Labor  
106 Department and the Office of Consumer Counsel. Copies of such  
107 comments shall be made available to all parties prior to the  
108 commencement of the hearing. Subsequent to the commencement of the  
109 hearing, said departments, Council on Environmental Quality,  
110 authority and offices may file additional written comments with the  
111 Connecticut Siting Council within such period of time as the  
112 Connecticut Siting Council designates. All such written comments shall  
113 be made part of the record, as provided in section 16-50o. Said  
114 departments, Council on Environmental Quality, authority and offices  
115 shall not enter any contract or agreement with any party to the

116 proceedings or hearings described in this section or section 16-50p that  
117 requires said departments, Council on Environmental Quality,  
118 authority or offices to withhold or retract comments, refrain from  
119 participating in or withdraw from said proceedings or hearings.

120 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 16-50l of the 2026 supplement to the  
121 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
122 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

123 (b) Each application shall be accompanied by proof of service of a  
124 copy of such application on: (1) Each municipality in which any portion  
125 of such facility is to be located, both as primarily proposed and in the  
126 alternative locations listed, and any adjoining municipality having a  
127 boundary not more than two thousand five hundred feet from such  
128 facility, which copy shall be served on the chief executive officer of each  
129 such municipality and shall include notice of the date on or about which  
130 the application is to be filed, and the zoning commissions, planning  
131 commissions, planning and zoning commissions, conservation  
132 commissions and inland wetlands agencies of each such municipality,  
133 and the regional councils of governments which encompass each such  
134 municipality; (2) the Attorney General; (3) each member of the  
135 legislature in whose assembly or senate district the facility or any  
136 alternative location listed in the application is to be located; (4) any  
137 agency, department or instrumentality of the federal government that  
138 has jurisdiction, whether concurrent with the state or otherwise, over  
139 any matter that would be affected by such facility; (5) each state  
140 department and agency named in subsection [(i)] (j) of section 16-50j, as  
141 amended by this act; and (6) such other state and municipal bodies as  
142 the council may by regulation designate. A notice of such application  
143 shall be given to the general public, in municipalities entitled to receive  
144 notice under subdivision (1) of this subsection, by the publication of a  
145 summary of such application and the date on or about which it will be  
146 filed. Such notice shall be published under the regulations to be  
147 promulgated by the council, in such form and in such newspapers as  
148 will serve substantially to inform the public of such application and to  
149 afford interested persons sufficient time to prepare for and to be heard

150 at the hearing prescribed in section 16-50m. Such notice shall be  
151 published in not less than ten-point type. A notice of such an application  
152 for a certificate for a facility described in subdivision (3), (4), (5) or (6) of  
153 subsection (a) of section 16-50i shall also be sent, by certified or  
154 registered mail, to each person appearing of record as an owner of  
155 property which abuts the proposed primary or alternative sites on  
156 which the facility would be located. Such notice shall be sent at the same  
157 time that notice of such application is given to the general public. Notice  
158 of an application for a certificate for a facility described in subdivision  
159 (1) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i shall also be provided to each  
160 electric distribution company customer in the municipality where the  
161 facility is proposed to be placed. Such notice shall (A) be provided on a  
162 separate enclosure with each customer's monthly bill for one or more  
163 months, (B) be provided by the electric distribution company not earlier  
164 than sixty days prior to filing the application with the council, but not  
165 later than the date that the application is filed with the council, and (C)  
166 include: A brief description of the project, including its location relative  
167 to the affected municipality and adjacent streets; a brief technical  
168 description of the project including its proposed length, voltage, and  
169 type and range of heights of support structures or underground  
170 configuration; the reason for the project; the address and a toll-free  
171 telephone number of the applicant by which additional information  
172 about the project can be obtained; and a statement in print no smaller  
173 than twenty-four-point type size stating "NOTICE OF PROPOSED  
174 CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC  
175 TRANSMISSION LINE".

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	16-50j
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	16-50l(b)

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable*