



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 306

LCO No. 2235



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY.***

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

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 Section 16a-3d of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 (a) On or before October 1, 2020, and every four years thereafter, the
4 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation
5 with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
6 shall prepare a Comprehensive Energy Strategy. Said strategy shall
7 reflect the legislative findings and policy stated in section 16a-35k,
8 provide any analysis and recommendations necessary to guide the
9 state's energy policy to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction
10 requirements, as established in section 22a-200a, in the most cost-
11 effective manner and incorporate (1) an assessment and plan for all
12 energy needs in the state, including, but not limited to, electricity,
13 heating, cooling, and transportation, (2) the findings of the Integrated
14 Resources Plan, (3) the findings of the plan for energy efficiency adopted
15 pursuant to section 16-245m, (4) the findings of the plan for renewable

16 energy adopted pursuant to section 16-245n, and (5) the Energy
17 Assurance Plan developed for the state of Connecticut pursuant to the
18 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, or any
19 successor Energy Assurance Plan developed within a reasonable time
20 prior to the preparation of any Comprehensive Energy Strategy. Said
21 strategy shall further include, but not be limited to, (A) an assessment
22 of current energy supplies, demand and costs, (B) identification and
23 evaluation of the factors likely to affect future energy supplies, demand
24 and costs, (C) a statement of progress made toward achieving the goals
25 and milestones set in the preceding Comprehensive Energy Strategy,
26 (D) a statement of energy policies and long-range energy planning
27 objectives and strategies appropriate to achieve, the state's greenhouse
28 gas reduction goals established in section 22a-200a, a sound economy,
29 the least-cost mix of energy supply sources to meet said goals and
30 measures that reduce demand for energy, giving due regard to such
31 factors as consumer price impacts, security and diversity of fuel supplies
32 and energy generating methods, protection of public health and safety,
33 environmental goals and standards, conservation of energy and energy
34 resources and the ability of the state to compete economically, (E)
35 recommendations for administrative and legislative actions to
36 implement such policies, objectives and strategies, (F) an assessment of
37 the potential costs savings and benefits to ratepayers, including, but not
38 limited to, carbon dioxide emissions reductions or voluntary joint
39 ventures to repower some or all of the state's coal-fired and oil-fired
40 generation facilities built before 1990, (G) the benefits, costs, obstacles
41 and solutions related to the expansion and use and availability of
42 natural gas in Connecticut, and (H) a strategy for ensuring the state's
43 energy efficiency goals are met.

44 (b) In adopting the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, the
45 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall conduct a
46 proceeding that shall not be considered a contested case under chapter
47 54, but shall include not less than one public meeting and one technical
48 meeting at which technical personnel shall be available to answer

49 questions. Such meetings shall be transcribed and posted on the
50 department's Internet web site. Said commissioner shall give not less
51 than fifteen days' notice of such proceeding by electronic publication on
52 the department's Internet web site. Not later than fifteen days prior to
53 any such public meeting and not less than thirty days prior to any such
54 technical meeting, the commissioner shall publish notice of either such
55 meeting and post the text of the proposed Comprehensive Energy
56 Strategy on the department's Internet web site. Notice of such public
57 meeting or technical meeting may also be published in one or more
58 newspapers having state-wide circulation if deemed necessary by the
59 commissioner. Such notice shall state the date, time, and place of the
60 meeting, the subject matter of the meeting, the manner and time period
61 during which comments may be submitted to said commissioner, the
62 statutory authority for the proposed strategy and the location where a
63 copy of the proposed strategy may be obtained or examined in addition
64 to posting the proposed strategy on the department's Internet web site.
65 Said commissioner shall provide a time period of not less than sixty days
66 from the date the notice is published on the department's Internet web
67 site for public review and comment. During such time period, any
68 person may provide comments concerning the proposed strategy to said
69 commissioner. Said commissioner shall consider fully all written and
70 oral comments concerning the proposed strategy after all public
71 meetings and technical meetings and before approving the final
72 strategy. Said commissioner shall (1) notify by electronic mail each
73 person who requests such notice, and (2) post on the department's
74 Internet web site the electronic text of the final strategy and a report
75 summarizing all public comments and the changes made to the final
76 strategy in response to such comments and the reasons therefor. The
77 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall comment on the strategy's
78 impact on natural gas and electric rates.

79 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
80 submit the final Comprehensive Energy Strategy electronically to the
81 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance

82 of matters relating to energy and the environment and commerce.

83 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
84 modify the Comprehensive Energy Strategy in accordance with the
85 procedures outlined in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

86 (e) For the Comprehensive Energy Strategy next approved after
87 October 1, 2021, and every Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared
88 thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
89 in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and Community
90 Development, shall consider (1) the reductions in greenhouse gas
91 emissions resulting from low-carbon fuel blends used in home heating
92 oil on a life-cycle basis, (2) possible contributions to the state's
93 greenhouse gas emissions mandated levels, pursuant to section 22a-
94 200a, in connection with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions on
95 a life-cycle basis, (3) the ability of a thermal portfolio standard to further
96 reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on a life-cycle basis, and (4) the
97 relative value of the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on a life-
98 cycle basis achieved by biodiesel and other low-carbon fuel blends used
99 currently in the state compared with the value of future projected
100 greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved by the retail heating oil
101 industry on a life-cycle basis five, ten, and twenty years into the future
102 using the Department of Energy and Environmental Protections'
103 contemporaneous projection of renewable energy utilized.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	16a-3d

Statement of Purpose:

To include the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development in the preparation of any Comprehensive Energy Strategy as provided in section 16a-3d of the general statutes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]