



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5450



Offered by:
REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5340

File No. 385

Cal. No. 271

"AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE POWER GENERATION."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section
4 and sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act:

5 (1) "Authority" means the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;

6 (2) "Class I renewable energy source" has the same meaning as
7 provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

8 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Energy and
9 Environmental Protection;

10 (4) "Distributed energy resource" has the same meaning as provided
11 in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

12 (5) "Dwelling unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 47a-
13 1 of the general statutes;

14 (6) "Energy storage system" has the same meaning as provided in
15 section 16-1 of the general statutes;

16 (7) "Shared clean energy facility" means a Class I renewable energy
17 source that (A) emits no pollutants, (B) is served by an electric
18 distribution company, (C) has a nameplate capacity rating of five
19 megawatts or less, and (D) has at least two subscribers;

20 (8) "Residential customer" means a customer that resides in a single-
21 family home, a multifamily development consisting of two to four
22 dwelling units or a multifamily development consisting of five or more
23 dwelling units, provided in the case of a multifamily development
24 consisting of five or more such units, (A) not less than sixty per cent of
25 the units of the multifamily development are occupied by persons and
26 families with income that is not more than sixty per cent of the area
27 median income for the municipality in which it is located, as determined
28 by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development,
29 or (B) such multifamily development is determined to be affordable
30 housing by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority according to any
31 alternative metrics designated by the authority; and

32 (9) "Low-income customer" means a retail end user of an electric
33 distribution company who resides in the state, (A) whose income does
34 not exceed sixty per cent of the state median income, adjusted for family
35 size, or (B) who resides in an affordable housing development, provided
36 the authority may modify the definition of "low-income customer" for
37 the sole purpose of aligning such definition with the requirements of
38 any federal program that provides renewable energy incentives.

39 (b) On or before August 1, 2026, the authority shall initiate a
40 proceeding to establish a successor program to the Residential
41 Renewable Energy Solutions program established by the authority
42 pursuant to section 16-244z of the general statutes, as amended by this
43 act. In establishing such successor program, the authority shall establish
44 (1) tariffs for each electric distribution company, (2) a rate for such
45 tariffs, and (3) tariff terms and conditions consistent with the

46 requirements of this section. Any such tariff shall be for a term not to
47 exceed twenty years. In such proceeding, the authority shall consider
48 the findings of the study of the value of distributed energy resources
49 conducted pursuant to section 16a-3o of the general statutes, the
50 recommendations of the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant
51 to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy
52 Strategy developed pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes,
53 the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section
54 16a-3v of the general statutes and the impact of distributed energy
55 resources on the state's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
56 pursuant to section 22a-200a of the general statutes. The authority shall
57 issue a final order in such proceeding on or before December 1, 2027.

58 (c) In establishing rates for tariffs pursuant to this section, the
59 authority shall set such rates based on the electric system benefits
60 received by all ratepayers from the distributed energy resource based
61 on time of production, equitable distribution of participant benefits, the
62 Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d of
63 the general statutes, the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant
64 to section 16a-3a of the general statutes, the system efficiency and
65 utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general
66 statutes and the value or benefits of distributed energy resources to the
67 reliability of the electric grid in the state. The authority shall assess
68 whether to incorporate time-varying rates or other dynamic pricing
69 methods. In addition to a tariff rate applicable to any residential
70 customer, the authority shall authorize a separate tariff rate for (1) low-
71 income customers and residential customers in a multifamily
72 development as described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (8)
73 of subsection (a) of this section, and (2) residential customers that reside
74 in a distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-9p of the general
75 statutes.

76 (d) (1) On and after January 1, 2028, in compliance with the program
77 established under this section, each electric distribution company shall
78 offer tariffs with terms not to exceed twenty years, to any residential

79 customer for the purchase of energy products and renewable energy
80 certificates generated from a distributed energy resource that (A) emits
81 no pollutants, (B) is located on a customer's premises, and (C) has a
82 nameplate capacity rating of twenty-five kilowatts or less per dwelling
83 unit located on such premises.

84 (2) Tariffs offered pursuant to this section shall be: (A) For the
85 purchase of any energy at the rate established by the authority pursuant
86 to subsection (c) of this section, and any renewable energy certificates
87 generated by such energy resource, on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis,
88 and (B) for the purchase of any energy produced and not consumed in
89 a period of time established by the authority, and any renewable energy
90 certificates generated by such renewable energy resource, on a cents-
91 per-kilowatt-hour basis. A residential customer may not select more
92 than one tariff offered pursuant to this section for the same premises.

93 (3) Any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be subject to tariff
94 terms, conditions or other stipulations adopted by the authority,
95 including, but not limited to, stipulations regarding the capacity rights
96 of the distributed energy resource.

97 (e) To be eligible for program participation, a distributed energy
98 resource shall be sized to not exceed the annual load at the customer's
99 individual electric meter or, in the case of a multifamily development
100 described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (8) of subsection (a)
101 of this section, the annual load of the premises, from the electric
102 distribution company providing service to such customer, pursuant to
103 any rules established by the authority and as determined by such
104 electric distribution company. For purposes of this section, in the case of
105 a multifamily development consisting of five or more dwelling units, a
106 distributed energy resource shall only qualify for participation in the
107 program if each dwelling unit receives an appropriate share of the
108 benefits from such energy resource and no greater than an appropriate
109 share of the benefits from such energy resource is used to offset any
110 energy usage attributable to a common area in such development. The
111 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate an uncontested

112 proceeding to implement any distribution of the benefits from the
113 distributed energy resource necessary pursuant to subsection (d) of this
114 section or this subsection.

115 (f) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric
116 distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a
117 timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
118 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any
119 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
120 any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
121 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
122 such electric distribution company.

123 (g) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
124 shall examine and, at the authority's discretion, incorporate the
125 following into the rate established for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for
126 energy storage systems that provide electric distribution benefits,
127 provided any such incentives take into account incentives received
128 under section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
129 or other ratepayer-funded programs to ensure the incentives received
130 by participants in the aggregate provide benefits to all ratepayers, (2)
131 incentives concerning the location of a distributed energy source on the
132 electric distribution system in a manner that improves the reliability of
133 such system, and (3) other energy policy benefits identified in the
134 Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the
135 general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared
136 pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes and to further the
137 system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section
138 16a-3v of the general statutes. Any such incentives or benefits may be
139 adjusted by the authority if such adjustment would enhance electric grid
140 reliability or benefit ratepayers, as determined by the authority.

141 (h) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the
142 target for the total aggregate procurement of energy products by electric
143 distribution companies pursuant to this section shall be set by the
144 authority pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of this act.

145 (i) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
146 tariffs developed pursuant to this section until December 31, 2035. The
147 authority (1) shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-
148 per-kilowatt-hour basis for such energy, and (2) may establish a
149 monthly charge, effective upon the expiration of the term of any tariff
150 authorized pursuant to this section.

151 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) On or before August 1, 2026,
152 the authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish a successor program
153 to the Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program
154 established pursuant to section 16-244z of the general statutes, as
155 amended by this act. In establishing such successor program, the
156 authority shall establish (1) a procurement plan for the electric
157 distribution companies and resulting tariffs for selected projects
158 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (2) a price cap on a cents-per-
159 kilowatt-hour basis concerning any distributed energy resource selected
160 pursuant to this section, and (3) tariff terms and conditions consistent
161 with the requirements of this section. Any such tariff shall be for a term
162 not to exceed twenty years. The rate for such tariffs shall be established
163 by the solicitation pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. In such
164 proceeding, the authority shall consider the findings of the study of the
165 value of distributed energy resources conducted pursuant to section
166 16a-3o of the general statutes, the recommendations of the Integrated
167 Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general
168 statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy developed pursuant
169 to section 16a-3d of the general statutes, the system efficiency and
170 utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general
171 statutes and the impact of Class I renewable energy sources on the
172 state's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to section
173 22a-200a of the general statutes. The authority shall issue a final order
174 in such proceeding on or before December 1, 2027.

175 (b) (1) On and after January 1, 2028, not less than annually, each
176 electric distribution company shall jointly or individually solicit and file
177 with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for its approval one or

178 more projects selected resulting from any procurement issued pursuant
179 to this section that are consistent with the tariffs approved by the
180 authority pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. For any such selected
181 project that is a distributed energy resource that emits no pollutants that
182 (A) is located on a customer's premises, (B) is not more than five
183 megawatts in size, and (C) serves the distribution system of an electric
184 distribution company, each electric distribution company shall offer a
185 tariff (i) for the purchase of all energy and renewable energy certificates
186 generated at a rate consistent with the procurement plan approved by
187 the authority, and (ii) for the purchase of any energy produced and not
188 consumed in a period of time established by the authority, and any
189 renewable energy certificates generated by such renewable energy
190 resource, on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, subject to any tariff terms,
191 conditions or other stipulations of the authority, including, but not
192 limited to, the capacity rights of such source.

193 (2) Except for a distributed energy resource owned by a state,
194 municipal or agricultural customer, to be eligible for program
195 participation, a distributed energy resource shall be sized to not exceed
196 the annual load at the customer's individual electric meter or a set of
197 electric meters, when such meters are combined for billing purposes, as
198 determined by the authority, provided the entire rooftop space of a
199 customer's premises or owned by a commercial or industrial customer
200 may be used for purposes of electricity generation and participation in
201 the solicitation conducted by each electric distribution company
202 pursuant to this section. For any state, municipal or agricultural
203 customer, the distributed energy resource shall be sized to not exceed
204 the annual load at such customer's individual electric meter or a set of
205 electric meters at the same customer's premises, when such meters are
206 combined for billing purposes, and the load of up to five state,
207 municipal or agricultural beneficial accounts, as defined in section 16-
208 244u of the general statutes, identified by such state, municipal or
209 agricultural customer, and such state, municipal or agricultural
210 customer may include the load of up to five additional nonstate or
211 municipal beneficial accounts, as defined in section 16-244u of the

212 general statutes, when sizing such energy resource, provided such
213 accounts are critical facilities, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection
214 (a) of section 16-243y of the general statutes, and are connected to a
215 microgrid.

216 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section,
217 state, municipal and agricultural customers shall be exempt from the
218 requirement that generation projects, including colocated energy
219 storage facilities connected with such projects, be located on a
220 customer's premises.

221 (d) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
222 shall examine, and incorporate, at the authority's discretion, the
223 following into the rate established for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for
224 energy storage systems that provide electric distribution benefits,
225 provided any such incentives take into account incentives received
226 under section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
227 or other ratepayer-funded programs to ensure the incentives received
228 by participants in the aggregate provide benefits to all ratepayers, (2)
229 incentives concerning the location of a distributed energy source on the
230 electric distribution system in a manner that improves the reliability of
231 such system, (3) preference for the development of distributed energy
232 projects in distressed municipalities, as defined in section 32-9p of the
233 general statutes, and on properties designated as brownfields, as
234 defined in section 32-760 of the general statutes, (4) incentives for the
235 development of solar canopy projects, and (5) other energy policy
236 benefits identified in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared
237 pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes and the Integrated
238 Resources Plan prepared pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general
239 statutes and policies in furtherance of the system efficiency and
240 utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general
241 statutes. Any such incentives, preferences or benefits may be adjusted
242 by the authority if such adjustment would enhance electric grid
243 reliability or benefit ratepayers, as determined by the authority. The
244 authority shall set the price cap based on the electric system benefits

245 received by all ratepayers from the distributed energy resource,
246 equitable distribution of participant benefits, the Comprehensive
247 Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general
248 statutes, the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section
249 16a-3a of the general statutes and the system efficiency and utilization
250 goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes.

251 (e) The authority shall follow the procedures established pursuant to
252 subsection (g) of section 16-245a of the general statutes for certificates
253 issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System
254 for any Class I renewable energy source purchased by an electric
255 distribution company pursuant to this section.

256 (f) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric
257 distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a
258 timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
259 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any
260 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
261 any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
262 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
263 such electric distribution company.

264 (g) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the
265 target for the total aggregate procurement of energy products by electric
266 distribution companies pursuant to this section shall be set by the
267 authority pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of this act.

268 (h) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
269 tariffs developed pursuant to this section until December 31, 2035. The
270 authority (1) shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-
271 per-kilowatt-hour basis at the same rate as the wholesale rate for energy,
272 and (2) may establish a monthly charge, effective upon the expiration of
273 the term of any tariff authorized pursuant to this section.

274 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) On or before August 1, 2026,
275 the authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish the Community

276 Solar Program, which shall be the successor to the shared clean energy
277 facility program established pursuant to section 16-244z of the general
278 statutes, as amended by this act. In establishing such successor program,
279 the authority shall establish (1) a procurement plan for the electric
280 distribution companies and resulting tariffs for selected projects
281 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (2) a price cap on a cents-per-
282 kilowatt-hour basis concerning any shared clean energy facility selected
283 pursuant to this section, and (3) tariff terms and conditions consistent
284 with the requirements of this section. Any such tariff shall be for a term
285 not to exceed twenty years. The rate for such tariffs shall be established
286 by the solicitation pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The
287 authority shall issue a final order in such proceeding on or before
288 December 1, 2027.

289 (b) The Community Solar Program requirements shall include, but
290 need not be limited to, the following:

291 (1) The authority shall allow cost-effective shared clean energy
292 facility projects of various nameplate capacities, and may allow for the
293 construction of multiple such projects in the service area of each electric
294 distribution company that operates within the state.

295 (2) The authority shall determine the billing credit for any subscriber
296 of a shared clean energy facility that may be issued through the electric
297 distribution companies' monthly billing systems and establish
298 consumer protections for subscribers and potential subscribers of such
299 a facility, including, but not limited to, disclosures to be made when
300 selling or reselling a subscription.

301 (3) Such program shall utilize one or more tariff mechanisms with the
302 electric distribution companies for a term not to exceed twenty years,
303 subject to approval by the authority, to pay for the purchase of any
304 energy products and renewable energy certificates produced by any
305 eligible shared clean energy facility, or to deliver any billing credit of
306 any such facility.

307 (4) The authority shall limit subscribers of a shared clean energy
308 facility to low-income customers, and may give priority in program
309 participation to any low-income customer who has an arrearage with
310 such customer's electric distribution company. The authority may create
311 incentives or other financing mechanisms to encourage participation by
312 low-income customers.

313 (5) The authority shall require that each electric distribution company
314 submit a plan for the authority's approval concerning the enrollment of
315 subscribers to any shared clean energy facility in tariffs offered by the
316 electric distribution company. Such plans may include provisions for
317 automatically enrolling certain customers and opt-out provisions for
318 any such customers.

319 (c) On and after January 1, 2028, not less than annually, each electric
320 distribution company shall jointly or individually solicit and file with
321 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for its approval one or more
322 projects selected resulting from any procurement issued pursuant to
323 this section that are consistent with the tariffs approved by the authority
324 pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section. For any such selected
325 project, the electric distribution company shall offer a tariff for
326 subscribers of a shared clean energy facility consistent with the program
327 requirements adopted by the authority. In establishing a price cap for
328 tariffs pursuant to this section, the authority shall set the price cap based
329 on the electric system benefits received by all ratepayers from the Class
330 I renewable energy source, equitable distribution of participant benefits,
331 the Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d
332 of the general statutes, the Integrated Resources Plan developed
333 pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the system
334 efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of
335 the general statutes.

336 (d) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
337 shall examine, and incorporate, at the authority's discretion, the
338 following into the rate established for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for
339 energy storage systems that provide electric distribution benefits,

340 provided any such incentives take into account incentives received
341 under section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
342 or other ratepayer-funded programs to ensure the incentives received
343 by participants in the aggregate provide benefits to all ratepayers, (2)
344 incentives concerning the location of a distributed energy source on the
345 electric distribution system in a manner that improves the reliability of
346 such system, (3) preference for the development of distributed energy
347 projects in distressed municipalities, as defined in section 32-9p of the
348 general statutes, and on properties designated as brownfields, as
349 defined in section 32-760 of the general statutes, (4) incentives for the
350 development of solar canopy projects, and (5) other energy policy
351 benefits identified in the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant
352 to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy
353 Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes and
354 to further the system efficiency and utilization goal established
355 pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes. Any such incentives,
356 preferences or benefits may be adjusted by the authority if such
357 adjustment would enhance electric grid reliability or benefit ratepayers,
358 as determined by the authority.

359 (e) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric
360 distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a
361 timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of
362 electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any
363 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
364 any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers
365 through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of
366 such electric distribution company.

367 (f) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the target
368 for the total aggregate procurement of energy products by electric
369 distribution companies pursuant to this section shall be set by the
370 authority pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of this act.

371 (g) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
372 tariffs developed pursuant to this section until December 31, 2035. The

373 authority shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-per-
374 kilowatt-hour basis at the same rate as the wholesale rate for energy at
375 the expiration of any tariff terms authorized pursuant to this section.
376 The authority may allow subscriptions to continue beyond the tariff
377 term established by the authority.

378 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For tariff years commencing
379 on and after January 1, 2028, the target for the total aggregate
380 procurement of energy products by electric distribution companies shall
381 be (1) one hundred eighty megawatts per year for programs established
382 pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act, and (2) an aggregated
383 total of eighty-five million dollars per year for programs established
384 pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and section 16-243ee of
385 the general statutes, as amended by this act, accounting for the
386 compensation for energy, renewable energy certificates, energy
387 products or any combination thereof received by a participant. If the
388 target goals specified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection
389 cannot be reconciled in any given year, the budgetary goal specified in
390 said subdivision (2) shall be given precedence by the authority. The
391 authority shall, within the budgetary and megawatt targets established
392 pursuant to this subsection, adopt an allocation methodology that
393 promotes the goal of reaching five hundred eighty megawatts of energy
394 storage deployed in the state pursuant to the provisions of section 16-
395 243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, not later than
396 December 31, 2031. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if the
397 authority determines incentives associated with a solar photovoltaic
398 system used in combination with an energy storage system provides
399 benefits to all ratepayers in the state, as determined by a ratepayer
400 impact measurement test developed by the authority, any such solar
401 photovoltaic system used in combination with an energy storage
402 system, where both such systems are located on a residential customer's
403 premises, shall not be counted by the authority toward the megawatt
404 procurement or budgetary targets set forth in this subsection.

405 (b) On or before January 1, 2028, the authority shall establish an initial

406 allocation of megawatts procured and budget expenditure on an annual
407 basis for the programs established pursuant to section 16-243ee of the
408 general statutes, as amended by this act, and sections 1 to 3, inclusive,
409 of this act in a manner that achieves the greatest benefits for all
410 ratepayers, furthers the system efficiency and utilization goal
411 established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes and
412 provides for an equitable distribution, as determined by the authority,
413 of benefits to program participants. The authority may adjust the
414 allocation of incentives, as needed, to achieve the goals of this section.

415 (c) If the actual budget expenditure for the programs established
416 pursuant to section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this
417 act, and sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act deviates from the target set
418 forth in subsection (a) of this section, the authority may, in the
419 authority's discretion, revise the budget target for the following year by
420 not more than five per cent of such target.

421 (d) On or before January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter through
422 January 1, 2035, the authority shall review the performance of each
423 program established pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and
424 section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and
425 determine the annual allocation of such target procurements applicable
426 to each such program in accordance with the provisions of subsection
427 (a) of this section. The authority shall adopt a notice procedure
428 concerning any adjustments in allocations or incentives under such
429 programs that is designed to minimize potential disruption in program
430 enrollment.

431 (e) On and after January 1, 2028, the authority shall direct the electric
432 distribution companies to report to the authority, in a form, frequency
433 and manner prescribed by the authority, any procurement during the
434 reporting period established by the authority.

435 (f) On and after January 1, 2028, not less than quarterly, for the
436 purpose of assessing progress toward the annual procurement target set
437 forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, the authority

438 shall publish on the authority's Internet web site the total amount of
439 megawatts procured pursuant to each program established pursuant to
440 sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act in the previous quarter.

441 (g) The authority shall develop and implement a methodology for
442 monitoring the utilization and effectiveness of any procurements
443 authorized pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and section
444 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

445 (h) On or before January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter until
446 January 1, 2036, the authority shall submit a report, in accordance with
447 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, concerning the
448 authority's analysis of program effectiveness and any recommendations
449 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
450 cognizance of matters relating to energy. Such report shall include, but
451 need not be limited to, an analysis of: (1) The number of megawatts and
452 individual projects participating in each program under the budget
453 target established in subsection (a) of this section within each territory
454 of each electric distribution company; (2) the total annual budget spend,
455 accounting for the entire incentive for energy, renewable energy
456 certificates, energy products or any combination thereof received by the
457 participant, including the credit received by shared clean energy facility
458 associated subscribers pursuant to section 3 of this act; (3) the ratepayer
459 impact of these programs on nonparticipants; (4) whether the programs
460 authorized pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and section
461 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (A) remained
462 within the budget target established in subsection (a) of this section, and
463 (B) advanced the energy storage megawatt deployment goal established
464 in said subsection (a), and, if not, any recommended legislative changes
465 to maintain cost certainty for such programs; and (5) whether and how
466 the projects participating in each program further the system efficiency
467 and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general
468 statutes.

469 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 16-244z of the 2026 supplement to the
470 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

471 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

472 (c) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
473 for procurement and tariff years commencing on and after January 1,
474 2025, the total megawatts available to customers eligible under
475 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
476 not exceed one hundred megawatts per year and the total megawatts
477 available to customers eligible under subparagraph (B) of subdivision
478 (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed fifty megawatts per
479 year. The authority shall monitor the competitiveness of any
480 procurements authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and
481 may adjust the annual purchase amount established in this subsection
482 or other procurement parameters to maintain competitiveness. Any
483 megawatts not allocated in any given year shall roll into the next year's
484 available megawatts. The obligation to purchase energy and renewable
485 energy certificates shall be apportioned as determined by the authority.

486 (B) For procurement and tariff years commencing on and after
487 January 1, 2025, the authority may exceed the limits on total available
488 megawatts described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision for any
489 procurement and tariff program authorized pursuant to subsection (a)
490 of this section in any such year, if, during the period commencing on
491 January first and ending on the date that the last project is selected
492 pursuant to the usual procurement process for such program, as
493 determined by the authority, the aggregate dollar amount of
494 procurements of energy and renewable energy credits over the tariff
495 term for all selected projects does not exceed the aggregate dollar
496 amount of procurements of energy and renewable energy credits over
497 the tariff term for all projects selected in such program during the
498 calendar year 2024. The authority shall determine the manner of
499 exceeding such limits.

500 (C) [(i)] The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
501 tariffs developed pursuant to [subparagraph (B) of] subdivision (1) of
502 subsection (a) of this section [for six years, inclusive of previous years of
503 such procurement and tariff program. The sixth and final year of such

504 procurement and tariff program shall be the calendar year 2027] until
505 December 31, 2028, or until the authority has issued an order to the
506 electric distribution companies to offer tariffs pursuant to a successor
507 program approved by the authority, whichever is sooner.

508 [(ii) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any
509 tariffs developed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of
510 subsection (a) of this section for eight years, inclusive of previous years
511 of such procurement and tariff program. The eighth and final year of
512 such procurement and tariff program shall be the calendar year 2027.]

513 (D) The electric distribution companies shall offer any tariffs
514 developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section [for six years] until
515 December 31, 2028, or until the authority has issued an order to the
516 electric distribution companies to offer tariffs pursuant to a successor
517 program approved by the authority, whichever is sooner. At the end of
518 the tariff term pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
519 subsection (b) of this section, residential customers that elected the
520 option pursuant to said subparagraph shall be credited all cents-per-
521 kilowatt-hour charges pursuant to the tariff rate for such customer for
522 energy produced by the Class I renewable energy source against any
523 energy that is consumed in real time by such residential customer.

524 (E) The authority (i) shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy
525 on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, and (ii) may establish a monthly
526 charge, effective at the expiration of the term of any tariff [terms]
527 authorized pursuant to this section.

528 (2) The department, in consultation with the authority, shall assess
529 the tariff offerings pursuant to this section and determine if such
530 offerings are competitive compared to the cost of the technologies and
531 shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, the results of such
532 determination to the General Assembly not later than January 15, 2027.

533 (3) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
534 shall examine how to incorporate the following energy system benefits

535 into the rate established for any such tariff: (A) Energy storage systems
536 that provide electric distribution benefits, (B) location of a facility on the
537 distribution system, (C) time-of-use rates or other dynamic pricing, and
538 (D) other energy policy benefits identified in the Comprehensive Energy
539 Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d.

540 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 16-243ee of the 2026 supplement to
541 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
542 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

543 (a) On or before January 1, 2022, the Public Utilities Regulatory
544 Authority shall initiate a proceeding to develop and implement one or
545 more programs, and associated funding mechanisms, for electric energy
546 storage resources connected to the electric distribution system. The
547 authority shall establish (1) one or more programs for the residential
548 class of electric customers, and (2) one or more programs for commercial
549 and industrial classes of electric customers. The authority shall solicit
550 input from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,
551 the Connecticut Green Bank, the electric distribution companies and the
552 Office of Consumer Counsel in developing such programs. Any
553 program established by the authority pursuant to this section shall
554 terminate on December 31, 2035.

555 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Connecticut Green Bank shall,
556 within available resources, establish and administer a pilot incentive
557 program for residential solar customers who have participated in any
558 program established pursuant to the provisions of section 16-245ff of the
559 general statutes or section 16-244z of the general statutes, as amended
560 by this act, for the purpose of promoting the deployment of energy
561 storage systems, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, in
562 residential use. The total expenditures under the pilot incentive
563 program established pursuant to this section shall not exceed two
564 million dollars. The program shall be designed to (1) increase the
565 understanding of electric system benefits received by all ratepayers in
566 the state from such programs, (2) offset costs to ratepayers associated
567 with the provision of credits for any electricity generated from a Class I

568 renewable energy source pursuant to section 16-243h of the general
569 statutes by encouraging the storage of such electricity behind a
570 customer's meter for use by such customer, (3) provide for the
571 installation of such energy storage systems at no cost to a program
572 participant, and (4) give preference in program participation to any
573 household located in an environmental justice community, as defined
574 in section 22a-20 of the general statutes. The Connecticut Green Bank
575 may enter into an agreement with any contractor licensed in the state to
576 install such energy storage systems pursuant to program guidelines
577 adopted by the Connecticut Green Bank.

578 (b) On or before February 1, 2028, the Connecticut Green Bank shall
579 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
580 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
581 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and the
582 environment, analyzing the impact of the program and recommending
583 whether to establish a permanent program in the state and, if so, any
584 legislation necessary to implement such program. The pilot program
585 shall terminate on February 1, 2028, or upon the submission of the report
586 required pursuant to this subsection, whichever is sooner.

587 Sec. 8. (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Upon the termination of the pilot
588 program set forth in section 7 of this act, a working group shall be
589 convened to examine the results of the pilot program, including an
590 analysis of the benefits of the pilot program to all ratepayers in the state,
591 and make recommendations concerning a successor program to the
592 energy storage program established pursuant to section 16-243ee of the
593 general statutes, as amended by this act.

594 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

595 (1) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
596 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
597 technology;

598 (2) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or

599 the commissioner's designee;

600 (3) The Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee;

601 (4) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or
602 the chairperson's designee;

603 (5) The chief executive officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the
604 chief executive officer's designee; and

605 (6) Any individuals the chairpersons deem relevant and necessary to
606 carry out the duties of the working group.

607 (c) The chairpersons of the working group shall be the chairpersons
608 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
609 cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology. Such
610 chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group,
611 which shall be held not later than sixty days after the termination of the
612 pilot program established pursuant to section 7 of this act.

613 (d) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
614 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
615 technology shall serve as the administrative staff of the working group.

616 (e) Not later than one year after the working group is convened, the
617 working group shall submit a report on its findings and
618 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General
619 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
620 technology, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
621 general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it
622 submits such report or one year after the working group is convened,
623 whichever is later.

624 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,
625 "portable solar generation device" means a solar photovoltaic
626 generation device that (1) is not permanently affixed to a structure, (2)
627 has a maximum power output of not more than one thousand two

628 hundred watts, (3) is designed to be connected to a building's electrical
629 system through a standard one hundred twenty volt alternating current
630 outlet located behind a customer's electric meter, (4) is intended
631 primarily to offset part of the customer's electricity consumption, (5)
632 meets the requirements of the State Building Code, (6) meets the
633 requirements of the National Electric Code (NFPA-70) and the Institute
634 of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE 1547), (7) is certified by
635 Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized
636 testing laboratory, and meets the requirements set forth in Underwriters
637 Laboratories Standard Number 1741, as amended from time to time, (8)
638 includes a device or feature that prevents the system from energizing
639 the building's electrical system during a power outage, and (9) includes
640 a warning for consumers stating that any generation from such unit that
641 exceeds the consumption of electricity at the customer's location will
642 result in such excess generation being charged to the customer as usage
643 unless such customer utilizes an electric meter that allows for net
644 metering.

645 (b) A portable solar generation device that meets the requirements of
646 this section shall be exempt from any requirement concerning
647 interconnection agreements imposed by any regulation adopted by the
648 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or any decision of the authority,
649 provided not more than one such device may be used behind a
650 customer's electric meter. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
651 exempt any portable solar generation device from any applicable
652 provision of the State Building Code, the Fire Safety Code, the State Fire
653 Prevention Code or any provision of any local ordinance or regulation
654 applicable to such devices.

655 (c) No electric distribution company shall (1) require a customer
656 using a portable solar generation device to obtain the company's
657 approval before installing or using the system, pay any fee or charge
658 related to the system, except any charges the system incurs through its
659 use, or install any additional controls or equipment beyond what is
660 integrated into the system, provided not more than one such device may

661 be used behind a customer's electric meter, or (2) be liable for any
662 damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device.

663 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The State Building Inspector
664 and the Codes and Standards Committee shall, jointly, with the
665 approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in
666 accordance with the provisions of section 29-252b of the general statutes,
667 consider in the amendments to the State Building Code next adopted
668 after the effective date of this section, and the State Fire Marshal and the
669 Codes and Standards Committee shall, in accordance with section 29-
670 292a of the general statutes, consider in the amendments to the State Fire
671 Safety Code next adopted after the effective date of this section,
672 provisions that ensure the safe installation of portable solar generation
673 devices, as defined in subsection (a) of section 9 of this act.

674 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Energy
675 and Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the
676 Commissioner of Agriculture, conduct a study of the feasibility of
677 implementing an incentive program for agrivoltaics projects in the state.
678 Such study shall consider the potential benefits and consequences of
679 locating a solar photovoltaic energy generating system on land that is
680 also used for agricultural purposes. Such study shall include, but need
681 not be limited to, recommendations concerning: (1) Nameplate capacity
682 restrictions for solar photovoltaic energy generating systems, (2) a
683 requirement that program participation be limited to land in productive
684 agricultural use prior to program participation, (3) the configuration of
685 such systems to preserve agricultural operations, (4) the allowable
686 percentage of a parcel that may be utilized for solar photovoltaic
687 equipment in lieu of an agricultural use, (5) the preservation of core
688 forest land, as defined in section 16a-3k of the general statutes, (6) a
689 permitting process for such projects, and (7) incentives for such projects.
690 Not later than January 1, 2027, the commissioner shall submit a report,
691 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
692 that contains such recommendations to the joint standing committee of
693 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy

694 and technology and the environment.

695 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

696 (1) "Major incident" means any event at a facility described in
697 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes,
698 as amended by this act, that (A) requires an emergency shutoff of
699 electricity flowing to or from such facility due to a hazardous condition
700 at such facility, (B) requires any local emergency services personnel to
701 respond to the site of such facility, or (C) causes injury requiring
702 hospitalization to any person; and

703 (2) "Minor incident" means any unanticipated or unplanned
704 shutdown of a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of
705 section 16-50i of the general statutes, as amended by this act, that does
706 not require any local emergency services personnel to respond to the
707 site of such facility. "Minor incident" does not include the shutdown of
708 such facility in connection with a preventative safety measure or
709 scheduled or routine maintenance.

710 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, any person
711 who receives a certificate from the Connecticut Siting Council to operate
712 a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i
713 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall report any major
714 incident or minor incident at such facility in a form and manner
715 prescribed by the council. Any major incident shall be reported not later
716 than five days after the occurrence of such incident, and any minor
717 incident shall be reported not later than thirty days after the occurrence
718 of such incident.

719 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any facility
720 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the
721 general statutes, as amended by this act, if such facility is a generating
722 source permitted under Title V of the federal Clean Air Act
723 Amendments of 1990 or section 22a-174-33a or 22a-174-33b of the
724 regulations of Connecticut state agencies.

725 (d) Commencing on July 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the
726 Connecticut Siting Council shall submit a report, in accordance with the
727 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, detailing any reports
728 the council has received pursuant to this section in the preceding year
729 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
730 cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology.

731 Sec. 13. Section 16-50l of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
732 is amended by adding subsections (i) and (j) as follows (*Effective October*
733 *1, 2026*):

734 (NEW) (i) In addition to the requirements of this section, the council
735 may, in the council's discretion, require that, as a condition of approval
736 for any facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section
737 16-50i, as amended by this act, the applicant provide emergency services
738 training specific to the proposed facility, at the applicant's sole expense,
739 to firefighters or other emergency services personnel in any
740 municipality in which such facility shall be located. If the council
741 imposes such a condition pursuant to this subsection, the applicant shall
742 provide notice of the availability of such training to the chief executive
743 officer and fire marshal of any municipality in which such facility shall
744 be located, as ordered by the council. The chief executive officer or fire
745 marshal shall respond in writing to such notice not later than sixty days
746 after the receipt of such notice and indicate whether firefighters or other
747 emergency services personnel in the municipality request such training.
748 If such training is so requested, the applicant will arrange for such
749 training to be provided not later than sixty days after such request.

750 (NEW) (j) (1) For the purposes of this subsection, "emergency contact
751 person" means a person, including an entity or an organization,
752 designated by an applicant or certificate holder pursuant to this section,
753 who has authority to act on behalf of the applicant or certificate holder
754 in the event of an emergency at a facility described in subdivision (3) of
755 subsection (a) of section 16-50i, as amended by this act. As a condition
756 of approval under this section, an applicant shall (A) designate an
757 emergency contact person for such facility, (B) provide the contact

758 information for such emergency contact person to the council and both
759 the chief executive officer and the local fire official of any municipality
760 in which such facility is located, and (C) post a sign at each entrance to
761 such facility displaying the contact information for such emergency
762 contact person.

763 (2) Not later than January 1, 2027, any certificate holder that owns or
764 operates a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of
765 section 16-50i, as amended by this act, shall (A) designate an emergency
766 contact person, (B) provide the contact information for such emergency
767 contact person, in writing, to the council and both the chief executive
768 officer and the local fire official of any municipality in which such
769 facility is located, and (C) post a sign at each entrance to the facility
770 displaying the contact information for such emergency contact person.

771 (3) If the person, entity or organization designated as the emergency
772 contact person pursuant to this subsection has changed, or the contact
773 information for such emergency contact person has changed, the
774 applicant or certificate holder shall, not later than thirty days after such
775 change, (A) provide written notice of such change to the council and
776 both the chief executive officer and the local fire official of any
777 municipality in which such facility is located, and (B) update each sign
778 at the facility displaying the contact information for the emergency
779 contact person.

780 (4) Any person designated as an emergency contact person pursuant
781 to this subsection shall be available to respond, whether at the facility,
782 by telephonic means or by other electronic equipment, as defined in
783 section 1-200 of the general statutes, to any emergency at such facility
784 not later than one hour after the occurrence of such emergency. If an
785 emergency contact person fails to timely respond in the event of an
786 emergency at such facility, any firefighter or other emergency services
787 personnel who attempted to contact the emergency contact person shall
788 file a written report with the council detailing such lack of response.

789 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than November

790 1, 2026, the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in
791 consultation with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
792 Protection and the Connecticut Siting Council, shall convene a working
793 group within the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for the purpose
794 of reviewing and assessing any processes concerning the resumption of
795 electric generation services after a shutoff of such services at any facility
796 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the
797 general statutes, as amended by this act, that exceeds five days. Such
798 review and assessment shall consider (1) any existing statutory,
799 regulatory or contractual processes governing the resumption of electric
800 generation services following an extended shutoff; (2) the adequacy of
801 coordination among electric generation facility owners or operators,
802 electric distribution companies, regional transmission organizations
803 and state agencies; (3) potential risks to public safety or electric grid
804 reliability associated with extended shutoffs and subsequent
805 resumption of service; and (4) any recommendations for statutory,
806 regulatory or procedural changes to improve transparency,
807 coordination and safety upon the resumption of such services.

808 (b) The working group shall include:

809 (1) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or
810 the chairperson's designee;

811 (2) The chairperson of the Connecticut Siting Council, or the
812 chairperson's designee;

813 (3) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
814 the commissioner's designee;

815 (4) The Consumer Counsel, or the counsel's designee;

816 (5) A local fire marshal from a municipality in which two or more
817 facilities described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i
818 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, are sited;

819 (6) One or more representatives from an electric distribution

820 company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

821 (7) One or more owners or operators of an electric generation facility
822 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the
823 general statutes, as amended by this act;

824 (8) A person employed by an institution of higher education in the
825 state, who has expertise in electrical engineering or any field related to
826 the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity; and

827 (9) Any other interested party the chairperson deems appropriate.

828 (c) Not later than February 1, 2027, the chairperson of the Public
829 Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, in accordance with the provisions
830 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, submit a report on the efforts of
831 such working group and any recommendations to the joint standing
832 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
833 relating to energy and technology and public safety.

834 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

835 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Administrative
836 Services;

837 (2) "Residential energy storage system" means any commercially
838 available technology that is (A) used to meet the electrical demand for
839 the residential property on which such system is installed, and (B)
840 capable of absorbing energy, storing such energy for a period of time
841 and thereafter dispatching the energy, and that is further capable of: (i)
842 Using mechanical, chemical or thermal processes to store electricity that
843 is generated at one time for use at a later time; (ii) storing thermal energy
844 for direct use for heating or cooling at a later time in a manner that
845 avoids the need to use electricity at a later time; (iii) using mechanical,
846 chemical or thermal processes to store electricity generated from
847 renewable energy sources for use at a later time; or (iv) using
848 mechanical, chemical or thermal processes to capture or harness waste
849 electricity and to store such electricity generated from mechanical

850 processes for delivery at a later time;

851 (3) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated town
852 and city or consolidated town and borough;

853 (4) "Residential solar photovoltaic system" means equipment and
854 devices that (A) have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and
855 generating electricity by photovoltaic effect, (B) have a nameplate
856 capacity rating of twenty-five kilowatts or less, and (C) are installed on
857 the roof of a single-family or multifamily home; and

858 (5) "Smart solar permitting platform" means the Internet-based
859 platform known as SolarAPP+ developed by the National Laboratory of
860 the Rockies within the United States Department of Energy, or a similar
861 Internet-based platform selected by the Commissioner of
862 Administrative Services to automate the review of an application for a
863 building permit to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system or
864 such system in combination with a residential energy storage system.

865 (b) Not later than July 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Administrative
866 Services shall implement a smart solar permitting platform for the
867 purpose of (1) automatically reviewing applications to construct a
868 residential solar photovoltaic system or such system in combination
869 with a residential energy storage system, and (2) instantly releasing a
870 building permit to construct such system or systems if such system or
871 systems comply with the Connecticut State Building Code.

872 (c) The commissioner shall administer the smart solar permitting
873 platform in a manner that allows for the:

874 (1) Use by the Department of Administrative Services, any
875 municipality, any architect licensed pursuant to chapter 390 of the
876 general statutes, any professional engineer licensed pursuant to chapter
877 391 of the general statutes and any contractor licensed pursuant to
878 chapter 393 of the general statutes;

879 (2) Automated evaluation of any application to construct a residential

880 solar photovoltaic system or an energy storage system to determine
881 whether such system complies with the requirements of the Connecticut
882 State Building Code and whether such application complies with the
883 regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section;

884 (3) Instant release of a building permit for any such application that
885 is determined to comply with the requirements of the Connecticut State
886 Building Code and the regulations adopted by the commissioner
887 pursuant to this section after such evaluation;

888 (4) Processing a permit application for not less than seventy-five per
889 cent of residential rooftop solar photovoltaic systems that (A) weigh less
890 than four pounds per square foot, (B) provide electrical power to
891 detached single and multifamily homes, and (C) comply with
892 Connecticut State Building Code requirements for installation on an
893 existing residential structure;

894 (5) Users of the platform to submit an application to construct a
895 residential solar photovoltaic system, or such system in combination
896 with a residential energy storage system, twenty-four hours a day,
897 except when the platform is unavailable because of a system upgrade or
898 maintenance;

899 (6) Use of digital signatures, stamps, seals or certifications on all
900 submitted applications and supporting documents necessary for the
901 issuance of a permit;

902 (7) Provision of customer service to assist users in navigating the
903 platform; and

904 (8) Periodic update as necessary to conform with changes to the
905 Connecticut State Building Code or any other applicable state law.

906 (d) (1) A municipality shall either allow for the submission of
907 applications to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system, or such
908 system in combination with a residential energy storage system,
909 through the smart solar permitting platform adopted by the

910 commissioner or through an alternative automated solar permitting
911 platform that satisfies the requirements set forth in this section in an
912 equivalent manner as the smart solar permitting platform. A
913 municipality may coordinate the selection and implementation of an
914 alternative automated solar permitting platform with the regional
915 council of governments of which such municipality is a member,
916 including the issuance of any request for proposals, invitation to bid or
917 other solicitation concerning the development and implementation of
918 such alternative platform.

919 (2) Any municipality that elects to implement an alternative
920 automated solar permitting platform shall enable access to the
921 alternative platform not later than January 1, 2029. A municipality that
922 implements an alternative automated solar permitting platform shall
923 not require an applicant to submit any documentation or information
924 that is not required through the smart solar permitting platform.

925 (3) A municipality that allows for the submission of residential solar
926 photovoltaic system applications through the smart solar permitting
927 platform shall, not later than January 1, 2029, revise its permitting fee
928 schedule to reflect any reduction in cost or resources expended by the
929 municipality to permit residential solar energy systems.

930 (e) (1) A municipality that allows for the submission of applications
931 to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system, or such system in
932 combination with a residential energy storage system, through an
933 alternative automated solar permitting platform shall submit a
934 compliance report to the commissioner, in a form and manner
935 prescribed by the commissioner, not later than sixty days after the
936 municipality implements such alternative platform. A local compliance
937 report shall include, but need not be limited to:

938 (A) The date of compliance by the municipality;

939 (B) The software used for compliance by the municipality; and

940 (C) Documentation demonstrating that the alternative automated

941 solar permitting platform implemented by the municipality satisfies the
942 requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section in an equivalent
943 manner as the platform implemented by the commissioner.

944 (2) If the commissioner determines that documentation submitted in
945 a local compliance report pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
946 is insufficient to verify that the alternative platform satisfies the
947 requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section in an equivalent
948 manner as the platform implemented by the commissioner, the
949 municipality shall provide the commissioner, at the commissioner's
950 request, access to the municipality's alternative platform so that the
951 commissioner may determine whether the alternative platform
952 complies with said requirements.

953 (3) The commissioner shall provide public access to any local
954 compliance report submitted by a municipality on the Internet web site
955 of the Department of Administrative Services.

956 (f) (1) A municipality that implements an alternative automated solar
957 permitting platform pursuant to this section shall, commencing on July
958 1, 2029, submit an annual report to the commissioner. The commissioner
959 may establish guidelines for annual reports required under this
960 subsection. Each such annual report shall include, but need not be
961 limited to:

962 (A) The number of permits released by the municipality for
963 residential solar photovoltaic systems through the alternative
964 automated solar permitting platform and the relevant characteristics of
965 such systems;

966 (B) The number of permits released by the municipality for
967 residential solar photovoltaic systems through means other than the
968 alternative automated solar permitting platform and the relevant
969 characteristics of such systems; and

970 (C) Documentation demonstrating that the alternative automated
971 solar permitting platform satisfies the requirements set forth in

972 subsection (c) of this section in an equivalent manner as the platform
973 implemented by the commissioner.

974 (2) If the commissioner determines that documentation submitted
975 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection is insufficient to verify that
976 the alternative automated solar permitting platform meets the
977 requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section in an equivalent
978 manner as the platform implemented by the commissioner, the
979 municipality shall provide the commissioner, at the commissioner's
980 request, access to the platform so that the commissioner may determine
981 whether the alternative platform complies with said requirements.

982 (3) The commissioner shall provide public access to annual reports
983 submitted by a municipality on the Internet web site of the Department
984 of Administrative Services.

985 (g) The commissioner shall prescribe the form and format of
986 applications for permits, including supporting documentation,
987 specifications, requirements for digital signatures, stamps, seals or
988 certifications and other information exchanged through the smart solar
989 permitting platform. The commissioner shall require that any
990 application and supporting documents submitted pursuant to this
991 section be prepared and submitted by any architect licensed pursuant
992 to chapter 390 of the general statutes, any professional engineer licensed
993 pursuant to chapter 391 of the general statutes or any contractor licensed
994 pursuant to chapter 393 of the general statutes. The commissioner shall
995 waive any requirement related to physical signatures, stamps, seals,
996 certifications or notarization imposed by statute, regulation or local
997 ordinance in order for the smart solar permitting platform to process
998 permit applications, provided the permit application contains a digital
999 signature, stamp, seal or certification.

1000 (h) A person exchanging information through either the smart solar
1001 permitting platform or through an alternative automated solar
1002 permitting platform shall not be subject to a licensing sanction, civil
1003 penalty, fine, permit disapproval, revocation or other sanction for

1004 failure to comply with any statute, regulation or local ordinance that
1005 requires submission of such information in physical form, including, but
1006 not limited to, any requirement that the information be (1) in a particular
1007 form or of a particular size, (2) submitted with multiple copies, (3)
1008 physically attached to another document, (4) an original document, or
1009 (5) signed, stamped, sealed, certified or notarized.

1010 Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Connecticut Siting Council shall
1011 not approve a declaratory ruling for a solar photovoltaic facility under
1012 section 16-50k of the general statutes or grant a certificate for a facility
1013 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the
1014 general statutes, as amended by this act, that is a solar photovoltaic
1015 facility if the council finds that such facility is located in a municipality
1016 in which greater than (1) five and one-half per cent of the total land area
1017 of such municipality, or (2) two per cent of the total land area of such
1018 municipality, if such municipality is contiguous with, and to the north
1019 of, a town described by subdivision (1) of this subsection, excluding
1020 solar installations approved by the council on any brownfield, as
1021 defined in section 32-760 of the general statutes, or any landfill, contains
1022 solar photovoltaic installations and related solar infrastructure,
1023 calculated by total parcel size, previously approved by the council.

1024 (b) To calculate the percentage of land area covered by such solar
1025 facilities pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the total parcel size
1026 of such installations and related infrastructure in such municipality, as
1027 determined by the computer-assisted mass appraisal system
1028 maintained by the Geographic Information Systems Office within the
1029 Office of Policy and Management, shall be divided by the total acreage
1030 of the municipality. The prohibition on the council's ability to approve
1031 a declaratory ruling or grant a certificate for a facility proposed in such
1032 municipality shall expire on July 1, 2027, and shall not apply to facilities
1033 proposed to be sited on land zoned for commercial or industrial use by
1034 the municipality as of January 1, 2024.

1035 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
1036 consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner

1037 of Economic and Community Development, the chairperson of the
1038 Connecticut Siting Council, the president of the Connecticut Conference
1039 of Municipalities, the president of the Connecticut Council of Small
1040 Towns, the executive director of the Capitol Region Council of
1041 Governments, the president of the Connecticut State Building Trades
1042 Council, a training director of a registered affiliate of the Connecticut
1043 State Building Trades Council, the Secretary of Office of Policy and
1044 Management, the chairperson of the Council on Environmental Quality,
1045 the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the
1046 Consumer Counsel, a conservation organization based in Connecticut
1047 with expertise in the management of forests and a conservation
1048 organization based in Connecticut with expertise in agrivoltaics and
1049 farmland soils, shall prepare a report, as described in subsections (d) to
1050 (f), inclusive, of this section, recommending specific criteria concerning
1051 the equitable distribution of siting solar photovoltaic energy generating
1052 systems in the state. Not later than February 1, 2027, the commissioner
1053 shall submit such report, in accordance with the provisions of section
1054 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the
1055 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
1056 judiciary, government administration and elections, labor, energy and
1057 the environment.

1058 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may,
1059 within available appropriations, hire a consultant to assist in the
1060 preparation of such report, provided such consultant shall not own or
1061 operate any facility, as defined in section 16-50i of the general statutes,
1062 as amended by this act.

1063 (e) The report prepared pursuant to this section shall include
1064 evaluations of and recommendations concerning: (1) The location of
1065 solar facilities previously approved by the council, with a focus on
1066 measuring and explaining the distribution of and concentration of solar
1067 facilities across the state; (2) how the council can further minimize
1068 conflicts between solar development and other land use priorities,
1069 particularly in municipalities with greater concentrations of solar

1070 development; (3) an assessment of the effectiveness of Public Act 17-218
1071 at protecting core forest and prime farmland resources in the solar
1072 facility siting process; (4) the existence of project labor agreements
1073 between the developers of such solar facilities and the Connecticut State
1074 Building Trades Council; (5) the potential economic impacts that solar
1075 facility development projects may have, including how many direct and
1076 indirect jobs would be created in a community and the surrounding
1077 region; (6) how the developer of such projects may demonstrate that
1078 contractors and subcontractors have a registered apprenticeship
1079 program approved by the state, whose curriculum includes training for
1080 solar and other Class I renewable energy source construction; (7) how a
1081 developer may attest that contractors and subcontractors have no
1082 history of stop work orders, wage violations or licensing violations
1083 pending by a federal or state agency, nor have they been cited for any
1084 wage or licensing violations by a federal or state agency within the
1085 preceding five years; and (8) any policy recommendations resulting
1086 from such evaluations.

1087 (f) Not later than November 30, 2026, the commissioner shall post a
1088 draft report on the Internet web site of the Department of Energy and
1089 Environmental Protection for public review and comment. Prior to
1090 submitting a final report pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the
1091 commissioner shall provide for one or more public comment periods
1092 and integrate any public comment the commissioner deems appropriate
1093 and useful into such final report.

1094 Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes is
1095 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1096 *1, 2026*):

1097 (a) "Facility" means: (1) An electric transmission line of a design
1098 capacity of sixty-nine kilovolts or more, including associated equipment
1099 but not including a transmission line tap, as defined in subsection (e) of
1100 this section; (2) a fuel transmission facility, except a gas transmission
1101 line having a design capability of less than two hundred pounds per
1102 square inch gauge pressure or having a design capacity of less than

1103 twenty per cent of its specified minimum yield strength; (3) any electric
1104 generating or storage facility using any fuel, including nuclear
1105 materials, including associated equipment for furnishing electricity but
1106 not including an emergency generating device, as defined in subsection
1107 (f) of this section or a facility (A) owned and operated by a private power
1108 producer, as defined in section 16-243b, (B) which is a qualifying small
1109 power production facility or a qualifying cogeneration facility under the
1110 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended, or a facility
1111 determined by the council to be primarily for a producer's own use, and
1112 (C) which has, in the case of a facility utilizing renewable energy
1113 sources, a generating capacity of one megawatt of electricity or less and,
1114 in the case of a facility utilizing cogeneration technology, a generating
1115 capacity of twenty-five megawatts of electricity or less; (4) any electric
1116 substation or switchyard designed to change or regulate the voltage of
1117 electricity at sixty-nine kilovolts or more or to connect two or more
1118 electric circuits at such voltage, which substation or switchyard may
1119 have a substantial adverse environmental effect, as determined by the
1120 council established under section 16-50j, and other facilities which may
1121 have a substantial adverse environmental effect as the council may, by
1122 regulation, prescribe; (5) such community antenna television towers and
1123 head-end structures, including associated equipment, which may have
1124 a substantial adverse environmental effect, as said council shall, by
1125 regulation, prescribe; [and] (6) such telecommunication towers,
1126 including associated telecommunications equipment, owned or
1127 operated by the state, a public service company or a certified
1128 telecommunications provider or used in a cellular system, as defined in
1129 the Code of Federal Regulations Title 47, Part 22, as amended, which
1130 may have a substantial adverse environmental effect, as said council
1131 shall, by regulation, prescribe; and (7) (A) an electric transmission line
1132 and any associated equipment described in subdivision (1) of this
1133 subsection, or (B) any electric substation or switchyard or other facility
1134 described in subdivision (4) of this subsection, including a combination
1135 of the facilities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this
1136 subdivision, that is either an expansion of an existing facility or the
1137 installation of a new facility, and that is designed to (i) accommodate the

1138 interconnection of one or more future sources of generation of any type
1139 that is not yet the subject of an interconnection agreement, or (ii) relieve
1140 transmission system constraints in order to facilitate delivery of power
1141 from such future sources of generation;

1142 Sec. 18. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 16-50p of the
1143 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1144 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1145 (3) For purposes of this section, a public benefit exists when a facility
1146 is necessary for the reliability of the electric power supply of the state or
1147 for the development of a competitive market for electricity and a public
1148 need exists when a facility is necessary for the reliability of the electric
1149 power supply of the state. With respect to a facility described in
1150 subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, as amended by this
1151 act, in determining that a public need exists pursuant to this
1152 subdivision, the council shall consider whether such facility addresses
1153 anticipated future electric grid reliability needs, including the need for
1154 additional generation on the electric grid to maintain future resource
1155 adequacy. Any future reliability needs identified in the council's
1156 determination of public need for a facility described in subdivision (7)
1157 of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, as amended by this act, shall be
1158 supported by (A) any study or finding of the regional independent
1159 system operator, as defined in section 16-1, (B) the Integrated Resources
1160 Plan approved pursuant to section 16a-3a, or (C) through an advisory
1161 opinion by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
1162 stating that such facility is in the best interest of ratepayers in the state
1163 that is submitted in the relevant proceeding of the siting council. Such
1164 an advisory opinion may, without limitation, be based on the
1165 availability of funding from sources other than ratepayers in the state,
1166 the collaborative efforts of with one or more other states that will
1167 provide a net benefit to ratepayers in the state, or whether the proposed
1168 project shall eliminate, or otherwise limit, the need for other upgrades
1169 to the transmission system that would be a cost to ratepayers in the state.

1170 Sec. 19. Section 16-243hh of the general statutes is repealed and the

1171 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1172 Not later than January 1, 2025, each gas company, as defined in
 1173 section 16-1, shall institute a program to provide a rebate to any
 1174 customers of such company that use natural gas for a shared clean
 1175 energy facility, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section
 1176 16-244z, that was selected in a solicitation pursuant to said subsection.
 1177 [on or before December 31, 2023.] The amount of such rebate shall equal
 1178 the retail delivery charge that such company charges such customer for
 1179 transporting natural gas to such shared clean energy facility. Such
 1180 company may recover the costs of providing such rebates through such
 1181 company's decoupling mechanism pursuant to section 16-19tt. The
 1182 authority may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
 1183 chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	16-244z(c)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	16-243ee(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	16-50l(i) and (j)
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	16-50i(a)
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	16-50p(c)(3)
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	16-243hh