
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 233

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS REGARDING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS.

SUMMARY

Starting February 15, 2027, this bill requires sellers of residential solar photovoltaic or energy storage systems and their authorized sales representatives to:

1. only conduct in-person residential solicitations from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., or any shorter period set by a municipal ordinance (consumers and sellers can set a time to meet outside this timeframe);
2. carry a current, valid ID at all times during in-person residential solicitations that includes (a) the person's name and photo and (b) other information the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) deems relevant; and
3. give consumers a handbook (which the bill requires the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) to develop) at the beginning of the first in-person solicitation at a consumer's residence or, if there is none, then before executing a sales agreement.

The bill requires these sellers to annually report, beginning by February 15, 2027, to DCP each person the seller has a business relationship with to provide financing, installation, or related consumer services in partnership with the seller that includes in-person interaction with consumers. DCP must set how the report is provided but the bill does not require disclosing any employee's identity.

The bill also specifies that the sale, lease, or rent of a residential solar photovoltaic or residential energy storage system is covered by the Home Solicitation Sales Act and applies the bill's provisions to the act

(such as invalidating a contract that includes a waiver of these rights by the consumer).

The bill reduces the penalty for violating the Home Solicitation Sales Act from a class C misdemeanor (punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both) to a civil penalty of up to \$500 per violation and subjects the bill's new provisions to this penalty. The bill also makes (1) sales, leases, or rentals with a commission, rebate, or discount offered in violation of the bill's provisions voidable by the consumer and (2) any violation of the bill's provisions a Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violation.

It requires residential solar or energy storage lenders and providers to (1) give consumers a payoff statement or transfer document within seven days after a consumer's written request for one or (2) credit the consumer's account with \$250 if this deadline is not met.

Finally, the bill makes numerous technical and conforming changes to the Home Solicitation Sales Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

§ 1 — RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS DEFINED

Under the bill, "residential solar photovoltaic systems" are equipment and devices (1) used primarily to collect solar energy and generate electricity that have a capacity of up to 12 kilowatts and (2) installed on a single-family home's roof in compliance with the State Building Code.

"Residential energy storage systems" are commercially available technology that (1) absorbs and stores energy to later dispatch it and (2) are installed in a single family or two-to-four unit dwelling in compliance with the State Building Code.

§ 2 — CONSUMER HANDBOOK

By December 31, 2026, the bill requires OCC, with DCP, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, and interested stakeholders, to develop

a consumer handbook on home solicitation sales of residential solar photovoltaic and energy storage systems, including in-person sales at residences. The handbook must include:

1. guidance that helps consumers assess sales and marketing claims about these systems,
2. information on Home Solicitation Act penalties, and
3. other information OCC deems relevant.

By January 15, 2027, the bill requires DCP to post the handbook on its website for consumers of certain residential energy financing programs.

§ 10 — PAYOFF STATEMENTS AND TRANSFER DOCUMENTS

The bill requires certain lenders and providers, on a consumer's written request, to give the consumer a:

1. payoff statement with the unpaid balance on a residential solar or energy storage loan, including (a) principal, interest, and other charges under the loan documents and (b) daily interest on the unpaid principal, or
2. transfer document that allows the consumer to transfer to another person the consumer's rights and obligations under the terms of a residential solar or energy storage lease or loan agreement or residential power purchase agreement.

This applies to anyone who in the ordinary course of business extends credit to a consumer to finance the purchase of a residential solar or energy storage system, leases a system to a consumer, or enters an agreement with a consumer on the sale of electricity from a system.

If the consumer is not given the statement or document within seven days after the request, the consumer's account must be credited \$250.

The bill allows DCP to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

BACKGROUND

CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the DCP commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in cases involving less than \$10,000, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney’s fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2026)