



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5846



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.
SEN. MARTIN, 31st Dist.
SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.
SEN. CICARELLA, 34th Dist.
SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

SEN. HWANG, 28th Dist.
SEN. BERTHEL, 32nd Dist.
SEN. FAZIO, 36th Dist.
SEN. GORDON, 35th Dist.
SEN. PERILLO J., 21st Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 306

File No. 347

Cal. No. 233

(As Amended)

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

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) For purposes of this
4 section, "combined public benefits charge" means the systems benefit
5 charge pursuant to section 16-245l of the general statutes, as amended
6 by this act, the assessment for the Energy Conservation and Load
7 Management Fund pursuant to section 16-245m of the general statutes,
8 as amended by this act, the assessment for the Clean Energy Fund
9 pursuant to section 16-245n of the general statutes, as amended by this
10 act, and the federally mandated congestion charges, as defined in

11 section 16-1 of the general statutes.

12 (b) Not later than forty-five days after the convening of the 2028
13 session of the General Assembly, and biennially thereafter, the joint
14 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
15 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
16 energy and the environment shall conduct a public hearing concerning
17 the combined public benefits charge. Not later than forty-five days after
18 completion of such public hearing, the joint standing committee of the
19 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
20 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies shall submit a plan
21 concerning the continuation or discontinuation of, and funding for, any
22 component of the combined public benefits charge, along with the
23 committee's recommendation for approval or disapproval to the
24 General Assembly. The plan shall become effective when adopted by
25 the General Assembly as the plan of funding for the combined public
26 benefits charge.

27 (c) On and after July 1, 2028, the combined public benefits charge
28 shall be paid by the Treasurer from the General Fund on an annual basis
29 according to the plan of funding for the combined public benefits charge
30 adopted pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section.

31 Sec. 502. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-245d of the
32 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
33 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

34 (3) Not later than [August 1, 2023] July 1, 2028, each electric
35 distribution company shall use a total of [four] three categories as part
36 of the standard billing format for all residential customers, one of which
37 shall relate to charges for generation of electricity, one of which shall
38 relate to charges for local distribution of electricity, and one of which
39 shall relate to charges for transmission of electricity. [, and one of which
40 shall relate to system benefits and the subset of federally mandated
41 congesting charges approved by the authority pursuant to any
42 provision of the general statutes, public act or special act.] The authority

43 shall require that each electric distribution company's standard billing
44 format for residential customers identify each charge and the
45 corresponding category in accordance with the authority's
46 determinations. The authority, in a docket reopened pursuant to
47 subdivision (2) of this subsection, may modify the categories described
48 in this subdivision if the authority finds that such modification
49 improves customer understanding of the components of the electric bill
50 or customer understanding of what costs are causing increases to the
51 total amount of a customer's bill.

52 Sec. 503. Section 16-245l of the general statutes is repealed and the
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2028*):

54 (a) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall establish [and each
55 electric distribution company shall collect] a systems benefits charge [to
56 be imposed against all end use customers of each electric distribution
57 company beginning January 1, 2000] which shall be paid on an annual
58 basis by the Treasurer from the General Fund subject to the provisions
59 of section 501 of this act. The authority shall hold a hearing that shall be
60 conducted as a contested case in accordance with chapter 54 to establish
61 the amount of the systems benefits charge. The authority may revise the
62 systems benefits charge or any element of said charge as the need arises.

63 (b) Commencing on July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the sum of
64 two million one hundred thousand dollars shall be transferred from the
65 systems benefits charge to Operation Fuel, Incorporated, for energy
66 assistance, provided two hundred thousand dollars of such sum may be
67 used for administrative purposes. The systems benefits charge shall also
68 be used to fund (1) the expenses of the public education outreach
69 program developed under section 16-244d other than expenses for
70 authority staff, (2) the cost of hardship protection measures under
71 sections 16-262c and 16-262d and other hardship protections, including,
72 but not limited to, electric service bill payment programs, funding and
73 technical support for energy assistance, fuel bank and weatherization
74 programs and weatherization services, (3) the payment program to
75 offset tax losses described in section 12-94d, (4) any sums paid to a

76 resource recovery authority pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-
77 243e, (5) low income conservation programs approved by the Public
78 Utilities Regulatory Authority, (6) displaced worker protection costs, (7)
79 unfunded storage and disposal costs for spent nuclear fuel generated
80 before January 1, 2000, approved by the appropriate regulatory
81 agencies, (8) postretirement safe shutdown and site protection costs that
82 are incurred in preparation for decommissioning, (9) decommissioning
83 fund contributions, (10) costs associated with the Connecticut electric
84 efficiency partner program established pursuant to section 16-243v, (11)
85 reinvestments and investments in energy efficiency programs and
86 technologies pursuant to section 16a-38l, costs associated with the
87 electricity conservation incentive program established pursuant to
88 section 119 of public act 07-242, (12) legal, appraisal and purchase costs
89 of a conservation or land use restriction and other related costs as the
90 authority in its discretion deems appropriate, incurred by a
91 municipality on or before January 1, 2000, to ensure the environmental,
92 recreational and scenic preservation of any reservoir located within this
93 state created by a pump storage hydroelectric generating facility, and
94 (13) the residential furnace and boiler replacement program pursuant to
95 subsection (k) of section 16-243v.

96 (c) As used in this subsection, "displaced worker protection costs"
97 means the reasonable costs incurred, prior to January 1, 2008, [(A)] (1)
98 by an electric supplier, exempt wholesale generator, electric company,
99 an operator of a nuclear power generating facility in this state or a
100 generation entity or affiliate arising from the dislocation of any
101 employee other than an officer, provided such dislocation is a result of
102 [(i)] (A) restructuring of the electric generation market and such
103 dislocation occurs on or after July 1, 1998, or [(ii)] (B) the closing of a
104 Title IV source or an exempt wholesale generator, as defined in 15 USC
105 79z-5a, on or after January 1, 2004, as a result of such source's failure to
106 meet requirements imposed as a result of sections 22a-197 and 22a-198
107 and this section or those Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies
108 adopted by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, as
109 amended from time to time, in accordance with Executive Order

110 Number 19, issued on May 17, 2000, and provided further such costs
111 result from either the execution of agreements reached through
112 collective bargaining for union employees or from the company's or
113 entity's or affiliate's programs and policies for nonunion employees, and
114 [(B)] (2) by an electric distribution company or an exempt wholesale
115 generator arising from the retraining of a former employee of an
116 unaffiliated exempt wholesale generator, which employee was
117 involuntarily dislocated on or after January 1, 2004, from such wholesale
118 generator, except for cause. "Displaced worker protection costs"
119 includes costs incurred or projected for severance, retraining, early
120 retirement, outplacement, coverage for surviving spouse insurance
121 benefits and related expenses.

122 [(b) The amount of the systems benefits charge shall be determined
123 by the authority in a general and equitable manner and shall be imposed
124 on all end use customers of each electric distribution company at a rate
125 that is applied equally to all customers of the same class in accordance
126 with methods of allocation in effect on July 1, 1998, provided the system
127 benefits charge shall not be imposed on customers receiving services
128 under a special contract which is in effect on July 1, 1998, until such
129 special contracts expire. The system benefits charge shall be imposed
130 beginning on January 1, 2000, on all customers receiving services under
131 a special contract which are entered into or renewed after July 1, 1998.
132 The systems benefits charge shall have a generally applicable manner of
133 determination that may be measured on the basis of percentages of total
134 costs of retail sales of generation services. The systems benefits charge
135 shall be payable on an equal basis on the same payment terms and shall
136 be eligible or subject to prepayment on an equal basis. Any exemption
137 of the systems benefits charge by customers under a special contract
138 shall not result in an increase in rates to any customer.]

139 Sec. 504. Subparagraph (E) of subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of
140 section 16a-3m of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed
141 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2028*):

142 (E) [(i)] The remaining costs of any such agreement, including costs

143 incurred by the electric distribution company under the agreement and
144 reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution company in
145 connection with the agreement, net of all revenues from any sale of
146 energy, capacity or other products purchased under such agreement,
147 including, but not limited to, any revenues recovered pursuant to
148 subparagraph (D) of this subdivision, shall be [recovered on a timely
149 basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of electric
150 rates for all customers of the electric distribution company, and (ii) any]
151 paid by the Treasurer on an annual basis from the General Fund subject
152 to the provisions of section 501 of this act. Any net revenues from the
153 sale of products purchased in accordance with long-term contracts
154 entered into pursuant to this subsection, or pursuant to any other
155 provision of the general statutes, that are not associated with the
156 provision of standard service, shall be [credited to customers through
157 the same nonbypassable fully reconciling rate component for all
158 customers of the contracting electric distribution company] paid to the
159 Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund.

160 Sec. 505. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 16-245m of the
161 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
162 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2028*):

163 (d) (1) Not later than November 1, 2012, and every three years
164 thereafter, electric distribution companies, as defined in section 16-1, in
165 coordination with the gas companies, as defined in section 16-1, shall
166 submit to the Energy Conservation Management Board a combined
167 electric and gas Conservation and Load Management Plan, in
168 accordance with the provisions of this section, to implement cost-
169 effective energy conservation programs, demand management and
170 market transformation initiatives. All supply and conservation and load
171 management options shall be evaluated and selected within an
172 integrated supply and demand planning framework. Services provided
173 under the plan shall be available to all customers of electric distribution
174 companies and gas companies, provided a customer of an electric
175 distribution company may not be denied such services based on the fuel

176 such customer uses to heat such customer's home. The Energy
177 Conservation Management Board shall advise and assist the electric
178 distribution companies and gas companies in the development of such
179 plan. The Energy Conservation Management Board shall approve the
180 plan before transmitting it to the Commissioner of Energy and
181 Environmental Protection for approval. The commissioner shall, in an
182 uncontested proceeding during which the commissioner may hold a
183 public meeting, approve, modify or reject said plan prepared pursuant
184 to this subsection. Following approval by the commissioner, the board
185 shall assist the companies in implementing the plan and collaborate
186 with the Connecticut Green Bank to further the goals of the plan. Said
187 plan shall include a detailed budget sufficient to fund all energy
188 efficiency that is cost-effective or lower cost than acquisition of
189 equivalent supply, and shall be reviewed and approved by the
190 commissioner. [The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, not later
191 than sixty days after the plan is approved by the commissioner, ensure
192 that the balance of revenues required to fund such plan is provided
193 through fully reconciling conservation adjustment mechanisms. Electric
194 distribution companies shall collect a conservation adjustment
195 mechanism that ensures the plan is fully funded by collecting an
196 amount that is not more than the sum of six mills per kilowatt hour of
197 electricity sold to each end use customer of an electric distribution
198 company during the three years of any Conservation and Load
199 Management Plan. The authority shall ensure that the revenues
200 required to fund such plan with regard to gas companies are provided
201 through a fully reconciling conservation adjustment mechanism for
202 each gas company of not more than the equivalent of four and six-tenth
203 cents per hundred cubic feet during the three years of any Conservation
204 and Load Management Plan, provided such companies may exceed the
205 equivalent of four and six-tenth cents per hundred cubic feet to fund the
206 net costs of any agreement approved pursuant to section 45 of public act
207 25-173] The funding for such plan shall be paid on an annual basis by
208 the Treasurer from the General Fund subject to the provisions of section
209 501 of this act. Said plan shall include steps that would be needed to
210 achieve the goal of weatherization of eighty per cent of the state's

211 residential units by 2030, and steps to reduce energy consumption by
 212 1.6 million MMBtu, or the equivalent megawatts of electricity, as
 213 defined in subdivision (4) of section 22a-197, annually each year for
 214 calendar years commencing on and after January 1, 2020, up to and
 215 including calendar year 2025. Each program contained in the plan shall
 216 be reviewed by such companies and accepted, modified or rejected by
 217 the Energy Conservation Management Board prior to submission to the
 218 commissioner for approval. The Energy Conservation Management
 219 Board shall, as part of its review, examine opportunities to offer joint
 220 programs providing similar efficiency measures that save more than
 221 one fuel resource or otherwise to coordinate programs targeted at
 222 saving more than one fuel resource. Any costs for joint programs shall
 223 be allocated equitably among the conservation programs. The Energy
 224 Conservation Management Board shall give preference to projects that
 225 maximize the reduction of federally mandated congestion charges.

226 Sec. 506. Subsection (b) of section 16-245n of the general statutes is
 227 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 228 *2028*):

229 (b) On and after July 1, 2004, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
 230 shall assess or cause to be assessed a charge of not less than one mill per
 231 kilowatt hour charged to each end use customer of electric services in
 232 this state which shall be deposited into the Clean Energy Fund
 233 established under subsection (c) of this section, which shall be paid on
 234 an annual basis by the Treasurer from the General Fund subject to the
 235 provisions of section 501 of this act."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 502	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	16-245d(a)(3)
Sec. 503	<i>July 1, 2028</i>	16-245l
Sec. 504	<i>July 1, 2028</i>	16a-3m(e)(3)(E)
Sec. 505	<i>July 1, 2028</i>	16-245m(d)(1)
Sec. 506	<i>July 1, 2028</i>	16-245n(b)

