
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5342

AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board's membership by six members. The bill increases, from one to two, the number of community action agency representatives on the board as designated by the Connecticut Association for Community Action. It also adds the following five members:

1. two municipally- or regionally-owned water utility representatives, designated by the Connecticut Water Works Association;
2. the Connecticut Fair Housing Center executive director;
3. the Center for Children's Advocacy executive director; and
4. the Connecticut Green Building Council executive director.

The bill also makes a minor change to include on the board the AARP Connecticut state director, rather than its Connecticut president.

By law, the board advises executive branch agencies on developing, planning, implementing, and coordinating energy-assistance related programs and policies. It advises the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on the impacts of utility rates and policies. The board must also make recommendations to the legislature on the administration of the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. Under current law, the board includes at least 18 members, including representatives from (1) executive branch agencies (i.e., DEEP, the Office of Policy and Management, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, and the Department of Social Services);

(2) electric and gas utilities; and (3) advocacy and nonprofit organizations (CGS § 16a-41b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)