



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Raised Bill No. 6411**

LCO No. 3172



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:  
(ET)

***AN ACT MOVING THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL WITHIN  
THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 16-2a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2021*):

4 (a) There shall be an independent Office of Consumer Counsel,  
5 within the [Department of Energy and Environmental Protection] office  
6 of the Attorney General, for administrative purposes only, to act as the  
7 advocate for consumer interests in all matters which may affect  
8 Connecticut consumers with respect to public service companies,  
9 electric suppliers and certified telecommunications providers,  
10 including, but not limited to, rates and related issues, ratepayer-funded  
11 programs and matters concerning the reliability, maintenance,  
12 operations, infrastructure and quality of service of such companies,  
13 suppliers and providers. The Office of Consumer Counsel is authorized  
14 to appear in and participate in any regulatory or judicial proceedings,  
15 federal or state, in which such interests of Connecticut consumers may

16 be involved, or in which matters affecting utility services rendered or to  
17 be rendered in this state may be involved. The Office of Consumer  
18 Counsel shall be a party to each contested case before the Public Utilities  
19 Regulatory Authority and shall participate in such proceedings to the  
20 extent it deems necessary. Said Office of Consumer Counsel may appeal  
21 from a decision, order or authorization in any such state regulatory  
22 proceeding notwithstanding its failure to appear or participate in said  
23 proceeding.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 52-259a of the general statutes is  
25 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
26 *2021*):

27 (a) Any member of the Division of Criminal Justice or the Division of  
28 Public Defender Services, any employee of the Judicial Department,  
29 acting in the performance of such employee's duties, the Attorney  
30 General, an assistant attorney general, the Consumer Counsel, any  
31 attorney employed by the Office of Consumer Counsel within the  
32 [Department of Energy and Environmental Protection] office of the  
33 Attorney General, the Department of Revenue Services, the  
34 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, the Freedom of  
35 Information Commission, the Board of Labor Relations, the Office of the  
36 Victim Advocate, the Department of Social Services, the Department of  
37 Children and Families or the Office of State Ethics, or any attorney  
38 appointed by the court to assist any of them or to act for any of them in  
39 a special case or cases, while acting in such attorney's official capacity or  
40 in the capacity for which such attorney was appointed, shall not be  
41 required to pay the fees specified in sections 52-258, 52-259, and 52-259c,  
42 subsection (a) of section 52-356a, subsection (a) of section 52-361a,  
43 section 52-367a, subsection (b) of section 52-367b and subsection (n) of  
44 section 46b-231.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	16-2a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	52-259a(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To relocate the Office of Consumer Counsel within the office of the Attorney General.

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