



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 384

LCO No. 2728



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.

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

1 Section 1. Section 16a-41b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) There shall be a Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory Board
4 which shall consist of the following members or their designees: (1) A
5 representative of each electric and gas public service company
6 designated by each such company; (2) the chairperson of the Public
7 Utilities Regulatory Authority; (3) the Consumer Counsel; (4) the
8 executive director of Operation Fuel; (5) the executive director of
9 Infoline; (6) the director of the Connecticut Local Administrators of
10 Social Services; (7) [the executive director of Legal Assistance Resource
11 Center of Connecticut;] a representative from Connecticut Legal
12 Services, Inc., designated by such organization; (8) the Connecticut state
13 director of AARP; (9) a designee of the Norwich Public Utility; (10) a
14 designee of the Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association; (11)
15 two representatives of water companies as defined in section 25-32a,

16 designated by the Connecticut Water Works Association; (12) the
17 executive director of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center; (13) the
18 executive director of the Center for Children's Advocacy; (14) the
19 executive director of the Connecticut Green Building Council; and (15)
20 two representatives of the community action agencies administering
21 energy assistance programs under contract with the Department of
22 Social Services, designated by the Connecticut Association for
23 Community Action. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
24 Management and the Commissioners of Social Services and Energy and
25 Environmental Protection, or their designees, shall serve as nonvoting
26 members of the board.

27 (b) The Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory Board shall advise
28 and assist the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of
29 Social Services in the planning, development, implementation and
30 coordination of energy-assistance-related programs and policies and
31 low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies, shall
32 advise the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
33 regarding the impact of utility rates and policies, and shall make
34 recommendations to the General Assembly regarding (1) legislation and
35 plans subject to legislative approval, and (2) administration of the block
36 grant program authorized under the Low-Income Energy Assistance
37 Act, as described in section 16a-41a, as amended by this act, to ensure
38 affordable access to residential energy services to low-income state
39 residents.

40 (c) The Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory Board may advise
41 and assist the Office of Policy and Management, the Department of
42 Social Services and the Department of Energy and Environmental
43 Protection in the planning, development, implementation and
44 coordination of water-assistance-related programs and policies,
45 including programs and policies to alleviate the impact of utility rates,
46 and shall make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding
47 the availability and implementation of heating and water assistance
48 programs that benefit low-income and moderate-income households,
49 including, but not limited to, the Connecticut Low Income Household

50 Water Assistance Program.

51 [(c)] (d) The board shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson
52 from among its voting members.

53 [(d)] (e) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
54 or his or her designee, shall provide notice of meetings to the members
55 of the Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory Board, provide space
56 for such meetings, maintain minutes and publish reports of the board.

57 [(e)] (f) The Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory Board shall
58 convene and devise recommendations to improve the availability,
59 administration and implementation of heating and water assistance
60 programs, particularly those created to benefit low-income households,
61 through coordination and optimization of existing energy efficiency,
62 water conservation and energy assistance programs. [Such
63 recommendations shall consider: (1) How the Department of Energy
64 and Environmental Protection, Department of Social Services,
65 community action agencies, as defined in section 17b-885, electric
66 distribution companies, as defined in section 16-1, and municipal
67 electric utilities, as defined in section 7-233b, can securely share heating
68 assistance program applicant data, with respect to customer energy
69 usage levels, past participation and eligibility for energy assistance and
70 energy efficiency programs, and other data deemed relevant to improve
71 coordination among such programs and program administrators; (2) the
72 costs and benefits of current energy assistance and energy efficiency
73 programs and how to maximize customer benefits through such
74 customers' participation in any combination of energy assistance and
75 energy efficiency programs; (3) how to streamline the application
76 process for energy assistance and energy efficiency program applicants
77 and the possible development of joint electronic applications; (4) how to
78 make energy assistance and energy efficiency programs more accessible
79 and feasible for tenants in rental housing units, including, but not
80 limited to, how to best secure landlord permission for such services; and
81 (5) coordination efforts to best improve boiler and furnace replacement
82 programs.] Not later than [January 1, 2016,] October 15, 2024, and

83 biennially thereafter, the Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory
84 Board shall report such recommendations, in accordance with section
85 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
86 cognizance of matters relating to energy, appropriations and human
87 services.

88 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 16a-41a of the 2024 supplement to the
89 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
90 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

91 (g) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit each plan or
92 report described in subsection (a) of this section to the Low-Income
93 Energy and Water Advisory Board, established pursuant to section 16a-
94 41b, as amended by this act, not later than seven days prior to
95 submitting such plan or report to the joint standing committee of the
96 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
97 technology, appropriations and human services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	16a-41b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	16a-41a(g)

Statement of Purpose:

To change the composition and duties of the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board and rename it the Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory Board.

[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.]