



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 385**

**Public Act No. 24-38**

**AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY PROCUREMENTS, CERTAIN ENERGY SOURCES AND PROGRAMS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

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

Section 1. Section 16a-3m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Best interest of ratepayers" means the benefits of a contract or proposal outweigh the costs to electric ratepayers, based on whether the delivered prices of sources included in such contract or proposal are less than the forecasted price of energy and capacity, as determined by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, and based on a consideration of the following factors, as determined by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee: (A) Impacts on electric system operations and reliability; (B) the extent to which such contract or proposal will contribute to (i) the local sourcing requirement set by the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, and (ii) meeting the requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality in accordance with sections 16-245a, 22a-174 and 22a-200a; (C) fuel diversity; and (D) whether the proposal is aligned

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with the policy goals outlined in the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy developed pursuant to section 16a-3d, including, but not limited to, environmental impacts; and

(2) "Eligible nuclear power generating facility" means a nuclear power generating facility that is located in the control area of the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, and is licensed to operate through January 1, 2030, or later.

(b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall (1) conduct an appraisal regarding nuclear power generating facilities in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, and (2) determine whether a solicitation process for nuclear power generating facilities shall be conducted pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. On or before February 1, 2018, the commissioner and the authority shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, the results of the appraisal and the selection conducted pursuant to subsection (d) of this section to the General Assembly. If the General Assembly does not reject such results by a simple majority vote in each house on or before March 1, 2018, such results shall be deemed approved.

(c) The appraisal conducted pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section shall assess: (1) The current economic condition of nuclear generating facilities located in the control area of the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1; (2) the projected economic condition of nuclear power generating facilities located in the control area of the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1; (3) the impact on the following considerations if such nuclear power generating facilities retire before July 1, 2027: (A) Electric markets, fuel diversity, energy security and grid reliability, (B) the state's greenhouse gas emissions mandated levels established pursuant to section 22a-200a, and (C) the state, regional and local

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economy.

(d) After completing the appraisal, if the results of such appraisal demonstrate that action is necessary, the commissioner shall act and may issue one or more solicitations, in consultation with the procurement manager identified in subsection (1) of section 16-2 and the Office of Consumer Counsel established in section 16-2a, for zero-carbon electricity generating resources, including, but not limited to, eligible nuclear power [generation] generating facilities, hydropower, Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and energy storage systems, provided (1) the total annual energy output of any proposals selected, in the aggregate, shall be not more than twelve million megawatt hours of electricity, (2) any agreement entered into pursuant to this subdivision with an eligible nuclear power [generation] generating facility or hydropower shall be for a period of not less than three years and not more than ten years, and (3) any agreement entered into pursuant to this subdivision with Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and energy storage systems shall be for a period of not more than twenty years. On or before May 1, 2018, if the results of such appraisal demonstrate that one or more solicitations pursuant to this subsection are necessary, the commissioner shall initiate such solicitation process pursuant to this subsection, in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, provided any changes made, contracts entered into or agreements entered into are in the best interest of ratepayers.

(e) (1) Any solicitation issued pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for zero-carbon electricity generating resources, including, but not limited to, eligible nuclear power [generation] generating facilities, hydropower, Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and energy storage systems, shall be for resources delivered into the control area of the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, and any agreement entered into pursuant to subdivision

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(2) of this subsection shall be in the best interest of ratepayers. If the commissioner finds proposals received pursuant to such solicitations to be in the best interest of ratepayers, the commissioner may select any such proposal or proposals, provided (A) the total annual energy output of any proposals selected, in the aggregate, shall be not more than twelve million megawatt hours of electricity, (B) any agreement entered into pursuant to this subdivision with an eligible nuclear power [generation] generating facility or hydropower shall be for a period of not less than three years and not more than ten years, and (C) any agreement entered into pursuant to this subdivision with Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and energy storage systems shall be for a period of not more than twenty years.

(2) If the commissioner has made the determination and finding pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commissioner shall, on behalf of all customers of electric distribution companies, direct the electric distribution companies to enter into agreements for energy, capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, from proposals submitted pursuant to this subdivision.

(3) Any agreement entered into pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. The electric distribution company shall file an application for the approval of any such agreement with the authority. The authority's review shall commence upon the filing of the signed power purchase agreement with the authority. The authority shall approve agreements that it determines (A) provide for the delivery of adequate and reliable products and services, for which there is a clear public need, at a just and reasonable price, (B) are prudent and cost effective, and (C) that the respondent to the solicitation has the technical, financial and managerial capabilities to perform pursuant to such agreement. For any eligible nuclear power generating facility selected in any solicitation described in subsection (g) of this section, the authority

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shall require any such agreement to be conditioned upon the approval of such a power purchase agreement or other agreement for energy, capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, with such eligible nuclear power generating facility, in at least two other states, by the applicable officials of such states or by electric utilities or other entities designated by the applicable officials of such states. The authority shall issue a decision not later than one hundred eighty days after such filing. If the authority does not issue a decision within one hundred eighty days after such filing, the agreement shall be deemed approved. The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution company under the agreement and reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution company in connection with the agreement, shall be recovered on a timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with long-term contracts entered into pursuant to this [section] subsection shall be credited to customers through the same nonbypassable fully reconciling rate component for all customers of the contracting electric distribution company.

(f) Each person owning and operating a nuclear power generating facility in the state shall pay a pro rata share of all reasonable costs associated with the department's appraisal pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, determination pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and actions taken pursuant to subsection (e) of this section in an amount not to exceed one million dollars.

(g) Any solicitation issued pursuant to this section on or after July 1, 2024, for eligible nuclear power generating facilities shall be conducted in coordination with two or more other states in the control area of the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1. The commissioner may not direct any electric distribution company to enter

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into an agreement with an eligible nuclear power generating facility pursuant to this section unless the applicable officials of at least two such states select a proposal for energy, capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, from an eligible nuclear power generating facility in response to such coordinated solicitation. The commissioner may revise the appraisal conducted pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section in a manner determined by the commissioner and in furtherance of any such solicitation, at the commissioner's discretion.

Sec. 2. Section 16a-3n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with the procurement manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-2, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Attorney General, may, in coordination with other states in the control area of the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, in coordination with states in a neighboring control area or on behalf of Connecticut alone, solicit proposals, in one solicitation or multiple solicitations, from providers of energy derived from offshore wind facilities that are Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section 16-1, and any associated transmission, provided the commissioner shall initiate a solicitation not later than fourteen days after the effective date of this section for projects that have a total nameplate capacity rating of up to two thousand megawatts in the aggregate. Any such solicitation or solicitations issued pursuant to this section on and after January 1, 2020, shall be for quantities of energy and within the timing and schedule determined by the commissioner, and may be informed by the Integrated Resources Plan prepared on or before January 1, 2020, pursuant to subsections (b) and (j) of section 16a-3a, provided such schedule shall provide for the solicitation of resources with a nameplate capacity rating of two thousand megawatts in the aggregate by

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December 31, 2030.

(2) In developing any solicitations pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall include requirements for contract commitments in selected bids that (A) require payment of not less than the prevailing wage, as described in section 31-53, for laborers, workmen and mechanics performing construction activities within the United States with respect to the project, and (B) require selected bidders to engage in a good faith negotiation of a project labor agreement. Any solicitation issued pursuant to this section shall specify the minimum terms that such project labor agreements shall address.

(3) In any solicitation initiated pursuant to this section on or after July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall include requirements for contract commitments in selected bids that require bidders selected pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, including any providers of associated transmission, when employing or contracting with fishermen for support services such as scouting for fishing gear or serving as a safety vessel in a construction zone, for any project selected by the state or in proportion to the state share of any project selected by multiple states or other entities, to use best efforts to award such contracts or employment to state commercial fishing licensees, all other factors being equal. Such requirements shall include: (A) The maintenance of records that document the use of such best efforts and the filing of a monthly report with the Department of Economic and Community Development that describes such best efforts, on a form prescribed by said department; and (B) a provision that any fishermen that such providers employ or contract with to provide support services shall: (i) Meet training and certification standards described in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, as amended from time to time; and (ii) prior to providing any such support services, undergo inspection in accordance with the International Marine

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Contractors Association's marine inspection for small workboats inspection document. The Coast Guard or any inspector accredited through the accredited vessel inspector program operated by the Marine Surveying Academy of the International Institute of Marine Surveying may conduct such an inspection.

[(3)] (4) (A) In responding to any solicitations issued pursuant to this section, a bidder shall include an environmental and fisheries mitigation plan for the construction and operation of such offshore wind facilities, provided such plan shall include, but not be limited to, an explicit description of the best management practices the bidder will employ that are informed by the latest science at the time the proposal is made that will avoid, minimize and mitigate any impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems and traditional or existing water-dependent uses, including, but not limited to, commercial fishing.

(B) In responding to any solicitations issued pursuant to this section, a bidder may include such bidder's plans for the use of skilled labor, including, but not limited to, for any construction and manufacturing components of the proposal including any outreach, hiring and referral systems, or any combination thereof, that are affiliated with an apprenticeship training program registered with the Labor Department pursuant to section 31-22r.

(C) In responding to any solicitations issued pursuant to this section in calendar year 2019, each bidder shall submit at least one proposal for resources eligible pursuant to this section with a nameplate capacity rating of four hundred megawatts. The commissioner may not consider or select any proposals from a bidder that does not submit at least one proposal for resources with a nameplate capacity of four hundred megawatts for any solicitation issued pursuant to this section in calendar year 2019.

[(4)] (5) For each solicitation issued pursuant to this section, the



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commissioner shall establish a commission on environmental standards to provide input on best practices for avoiding, minimizing and mitigating any impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems and traditional or existing water-dependent uses, including, but not limited to, commercial fishing, during the construction and operation of facilities eligible pursuant to this section.

(b) In making any selection of such proposals, the commissioner shall consider factors, including, but not limited to, (1) whether the proposal is in the best interest of ratepayers, including, but not limited to, the delivered price of such sources, (2) whether the proposal promotes electric distribution system reliability, including during winter peak demand, (3) any positive impacts on the state's economic development, (4) whether the proposal is consistent with the requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with section 22a-200a, (5) whether the proposal is consistent with the policy goals outlined in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d and the Integrated Resources Plan adopted pursuant to section 16a-3a, (6) whether the proposal is consistent with the goals and policies set forth in sections 22a-92 and 25-157t, and (7) whether the proposal uses practices to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems and traditional or existing water-dependent uses, including, but not limited to, commercial fishing. In considering whether a proposal has any positive impacts on the state's economic development, the commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. The commissioner may select proposals from such resources that have a total nameplate capacity rating of not more than two thousand megawatts in the aggregate.

(c) The commissioner may direct the electric distribution companies to enter into power purchase agreements for energy, capacity, any transmission associated with such energy derived from offshore wind facilities that are Class I renewable energy sources as defined in section

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16-1 and environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, for periods of not more than twenty years on behalf of all customers of the state's electric distribution companies, except the commissioner may direct such companies to enter into such agreements for periods greater than twenty years and not more than thirty years if the commissioner conducts the solicitation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in coordination with one or more states and, in response to such coordinated solicitation, the applicable officials of any such state select a proposal for energy, capacity and any environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, from such facilities for a period that is greater than twenty years and not more than thirty years. Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy sources procured by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section may be: (1) Sold into the New England Power Pool Generation Information System renewable energy credit market to be used by any electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a, provided the revenues from such sale are credited to electric distribution company customers as described in this section; or (2) retained by the electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a. In considering whether to sell or retain such certificates, the company shall select the option that is in the best interest of such company's ratepayers.

(d) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, which review shall be completed not later than (1) ninety days after the date on which such agreement is filed with the authority for any solicitation issued pursuant to this section in calendar year 2019, and (2) one hundred twenty days for any solicitation issued pursuant to this section on and after January 1, 2020. The authority shall approve agreements that it determines (A) provide for the delivery of adequate and reliable products and services, for which there is a clear public need, at a just and reasonable price, (B) are prudent and cost effective, and (C)

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are between an electric distribution company and a respondent to the solicitation that has the technical, financial and managerial capabilities to perform pursuant to such agreement. The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution companies under the agreement and reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution companies in connection with the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of electric distribution companies. Any net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with long-term contracts entered into pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of the contracting electric distribution company. The commissioner may hire consultants with expertise in quantitative modeling of electric and gas markets to assist in implementing this section, including, but not limited to, the evaluation of proposals submitted pursuant to this section. All reasonable costs associated with the commissioner's solicitation and review of proposals pursuant to this section shall be recoverable through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of the electric distribution companies.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 16-243q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) (1) On and after January 1, 2007, each electric distribution company providing standard service pursuant to section 16-244c and each electric supplier, as defined in section 16-1, shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority that not less than one per cent of the total output of such supplier or such standard service of an electric distribution company shall be obtained from Class III sources.

(2) On and after January 1, 2008, not less than two per cent of the total output of any such supplier or such standard service of an electric

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distribution company shall, on demonstration satisfactory to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, be obtained from Class III sources. On or after January 1, 2009, not less than three per cent of the total output of any such supplier or such standard service of an electric distribution company shall, on demonstration satisfactory to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, be obtained from Class III sources.

(3) On and after January 1, 2010, not less than four per cent of the total output of any such supplier or such standard service of an electric distribution company shall, on demonstration satisfactory to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, be obtained from Class III sources.

(4) On and after January 1, 2022, until December 31, [2024] 2029, not less than five per cent of the total output of any such supplier or such standard service of an electric distribution company shall, on demonstration satisfactory to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, be obtained from Class III sources, except that with respect to any retail electric supply contract that was entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 2023, but prior to July 1, 2024, not less than four per cent of the total output of any such supplier with respect to such contract shall be obtained from Class III sources. Such exception shall be in effect on and after July 1, 2024, until January 1, 2026, or the date that any such contract is renewed, whichever is earlier.

(5) Electric power obtained from customer-side distributed resources that does not meet air and water quality standards of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is not eligible for purposes of meeting the percentage standards in this section.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) On or after July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with the procurement manager identified in subsection (l) of section 16-2 of the general statutes, the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Attorney General, may solicit proposals, in one solicitation or multiple

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solicitations, from providers of instantaneous run-of-the-river hydropower that is interconnected with the electric distribution system. In making any selection of such proposals, the commissioner shall consider factors, including, but not limited to: (1) Whether the proposal is in the interest of ratepayers, including, but not limited to, the delivered price of any electricity, capacity or environmental attributes that are procured pursuant to such solicitation; (2) the emissions profile of such provider's facilities that generate such hydropower; (3) any investments that such provider has made or is anticipated to make in improving such facility's emissions profile or environmental performance, such as investments related to water quality, water flow or fish passage; (4) any positive impacts on the state's economic development; (5) whether the proposal is consistent with the policy goals outlined in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes; and (6) whether the proposal functions as a load-reducing resource or promotes electric distribution system reliability and other electric distribution system benefits, including, but not limited to, microgrids. The commissioner shall not allow any such proposal to be based on a new dam or a dam identified by the commissioner as a candidate for removal. Any such proposal shall meet applicable state and federal requirements, including state dam safety requirements and applicable site-specific standards for water quality and fish passage.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2025, the commissioner may select proposals from such providers of instantaneous run-of-the-river hydropower. Facilities generating such hydropower shall have a total nameplate capacity rating of not more than twenty megawatts in the aggregate. The commissioner may direct the electric distribution companies to enter into power purchase agreements for energy, capacity and environmental attributes, or any combination thereof, for periods of not more than twenty years on behalf of all customers of the state's electric distribution companies. Any certificates issued by the

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New England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy sources procured under this section may be: (1) Sold in the New England Power Pool Generation Information System renewable energy credit market to be used by any electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a of the general statutes, provided the revenues from such sale are credited to all customers of the contracting electric distribution company; or (2) retained by the electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a of the general statutes. In considering whether to sell or retain such certificates, the company shall select the option that is in the best interest of such company's ratepayers. Any such agreement shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, which review shall be completed not later than one hundred eighty days after the date on which such agreement is filed with the authority. The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution companies under the agreement and reasonable costs incurred by the electric distribution companies in connection with the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of electric distribution companies. All reasonable costs incurred by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection associated with the commissioner's solicitation and review of proposals pursuant to this section shall be recoverable through the nonbypassable, federally mandated congestion charges, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, each gas company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, shall institute a program to provide a rebate to any customers of such company that use natural gas for a shared clean energy facility, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-244z of the general statutes, that was selected in a solicitation pursuant to said subsection on or before December 31, 2023. The amount of such rebate

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shall equal the retail delivery charge that such company charges such customer for transporting natural gas to such shared clean energy facility. Such company may recover the costs of providing such rebates through such company's decoupling mechanism pursuant to section 16-19tt of the general statutes. The authority may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Existing biomass power purchase agreement" means a power purchase agreement that: (A) (i) was entered into by a biomass facility that is a Class I renewable energy source with an electric distribution company in the state on or before June 5, 2013, or (ii) was executed in accordance with a solicitation pursuant to section 16a-3f of the general statutes or 16a-3h of the general statutes; and (B) was in effect as of January 1, 2024.

(2) "Eligible biomass facility" means a biomass facility that is a Class I renewable energy source and that has entered into one or more existing biomass power purchase agreements.

(3) "Additional biomass power purchase agreement" means a biomass power purchase agreement that is entered into by an eligible biomass facility and an electric distribution company pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section, for the fraction of energy, capacity and environmental attributes of an eligible biomass facility that was contracted for under an existing biomass power purchase agreement between such biomass facility and such electric distribution company.

(4) "Class I renewable energy source", "electric distribution company" and "electric supplier" have the same meanings as provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes.

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(b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may direct any electric distribution company to enter into one or more additional biomass power purchase agreements with any eligible biomass facility. Any such additional power purchase agreement shall be for a period of ten years. Certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy sources procured by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section may be: (1) Sold into the New England Power Pool Generation Information System renewable energy credit market to be used by any electric supplier or electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a of the general statutes, provided the revenues from such sale are credited to all customers of the contracting electric distribution company; or (2) retained by such electric distribution company to meet the requirements of section 16-245a of the general statutes. In considering whether to sell or retain such certificates, the company shall select the option that is in the best interest of such company's ratepayers.

(c) Any additional biomass power purchase agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. Such electric distribution company shall file an application for the approval of any such additional biomass power purchase agreement with the authority. The authority shall issue a decision not later than one hundred eighty days after any such filing. If the authority does not issue a decision within one hundred eighty days after such filing, such additional biomass power purchase agreement shall be deemed approved.

(d) The net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by the electric distribution companies under the agreement and reasonable costs incurred by any electric distribution company in connection with the agreement, shall be recovered through a fully reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of such electric distribution



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company.

Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to examine and make recommendations concerning policy, regulations and legislation to improve disclosure requirements and consumer protection for consumers who purchase, lease or enter into power purchase agreements for solar photovoltaic systems. Such study shall include an examination of whether special protections are necessary for consumers who are low-income or senior citizens.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee;

(2) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or the chairperson's designee;

(3) The Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee;

(4) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee;

(5) The president of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the president's designee;

(6) Two appointed by the Governor, who shall be members of an association that represents retailers of solar photovoltaic systems in the state or retailers of solar photovoltaic systems in the state;

(7) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall have experience representing senior citizens in matters related to consumer protection or utilities;

(8) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall have experience representing consumer groups, especially

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in underserved communities;

(9) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(10) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(11) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and

(12) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology and general law, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Notwithstanding the provisions of titles 16 and 16a of the general statutes, the Public Utilities Regulatory

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Authority may select the Connecticut Green Bank, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the electric distribution companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, a third party that the authority deems appropriate or any combination thereof to implement the non-residential renewable energy program established pursuant to section 16-244z of the general statutes, the residential renewable energy program established pursuant to said section, the shared clean energy facility program established pursuant to said section, the light-duty electric vehicle charging program established by the authority in a proceeding or a medium-duty to heavy-duty electric vehicle charging program established by the authority in a proceeding.