

Energy and Technology Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5326

AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

Title: SOLICITATIONS AND REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING SOLAR.

Vote Date: 3/22/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/8/2022

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Energy and Technology Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill sets guidelines for installers and manufacturers of solar photovoltaic systems to ensure that consumers are protected when investing in these systems.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Coleman, Claire - Interim Consumer Counsel - Office of Consumer Counsel:

- Supports the bill but believes it should be amended to have PURA develop performance standards and consumer protections.

Dykes, Katie - Commissioner - DEEP:

- Supports the bill, stating that residential solar contracts can be confusing for customers and as such protections are of paramount importance.

Seagull, Michelle - Commissioner - CT Department of Consumer Protection:

- Offers concerns regarding duplicative oversight and regulation between DCP and PURA.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Burckhart, Diane - Manager of Market Policy and Strategy - SunPower Corporation:

- Supports the bill, but states that many solar companies are already under the supervision of the Department of Consumer Protection. Believes that the bill could cause confusion regarding administrative rules and enforcement. Believes that

stakeholder working groups, through the Department of Consumer Protection, should explore these issues and make recommendations to the Home Improvement Contractors rules to inform future legislation. Additionally, believes that Section 2 of the bill should be removed.

Erlingheuser, John - Director of Advocacy/Outreach - AARP:

- Supports the bill, stating that it will protect consumers from deceptive sales and marketing practices.

Farrell, Chelsea - Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs - Trinity Solar:

- Supports the bill but offers a number of changes. Believes that the start and stop times for door sales would be unnecessarily restrictive and should be changed. Additionally, states that sales people already must be registered as required by the Department of Consumer Protection. Finally, believes compliance without due process would lead to solar companies being subject to unfair practices and regulations.

McDiarmid, Jeremy - VP, Policy and Government Affairs - NECEC:

- Supports the bill but believes some provisions regarding oversight are duplicative as solar companies are already under the supervision of a number of agencies.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Trahan, Mike - Executive Director - CT Solar:

- Sees very little value to the balance of the bill. Points out that solar companies are already heavily regulated, regarding sales practices, by a number of entities. Believes that this bill would cause further administrative confusion and problems with conducting business.

Wallace, Kyle - Senior Manager Public Policy - Sunrun:

- Opposes the bill, stating that solar companies are already subject to a number of regulations both by home improvement contractor regulations and government agencies. Believes that further discussions with the industry must happen if this bill is to be passed.

Reported by: Trenton Kapij

Date: 4/1/2022