



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1063

LCO No. 3369



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 16-2 of the
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (a) There shall continue to be a Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
5 within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which
6 shall [consist of five electors of this state] be under the direction of three
7 utility commissioners, appointed by the Governor with the advice and
8 consent of both houses of the General Assembly. Not more than [three]
9 two members of said authority in office at any one time shall be
10 members of any one political party. [The Governor shall appoint five
11 members to the authority.] The procedure prescribed in section 4-7 shall
12 apply to such appointments, except that the Governor shall submit each
13 nomination on or before May first, and both houses shall confirm or
14 reject it before adjournment sine die. Any utility commissioner
15 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by both chambers of the

16 General Assembly between February 1, 2019, and June 1, 2019, shall
17 serve a term expiring on March 1, 2024. Any utility commissioner
18 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by both houses of the
19 General Assembly between February 1, 2018, and June 1, 2018, shall
20 serve a term expiring on March 1, 2022. [Between July 1, 2019, and May
21 1, 2020, the Governor shall appoint three utility commissioners,
22 provided one such commissioner shall serve a term expiring on March
23 1, 2021, and two such commissioners shall serve terms expiring on
24 March 1, 2023.] Any utility commissioner appointed on or after May 1,
25 2020, shall serve a term of four years. No utility commissioner appointed
26 on or after February 1, 2023, may serve more than two such four-year
27 terms. All utility commissioners shall be electors of the state. The utility
28 commissioners shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties.

29 (b) [The authority shall elect] Each June, the utility commissioners
30 shall choose, from among them, a chairperson and vice-chairperson,
31 [each June] who shall serve for one-year terms starting on July first of
32 the same year. The vice-chairperson shall perform the duties of the
33 chairperson in his or her absence.

34 (c) Any matter coming before the authority may be assigned by the
35 chairperson to a panel of [three] one or more utility commissioners.
36 Except as otherwise provided by statute or regulation, the panel shall
37 determine whether a public hearing shall be held on the matter, and
38 may designate one or [more] two of its members to conduct such
39 hearing or may assign a hearing officer to ascertain the facts and report
40 thereon to the panel. The decision of the panel, if unanimous, shall be
41 the decision of the authority. If the decision of the panel is not
42 unanimous, the matter shall be approved by a majority vote of the utility
43 commissioners.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	16-2(a) to (c)

Statement of Purpose:

To limit the number of Public Utilities Regulatory Authority commissioners to three and to establish a term limit of two four-year terms for such commissioners.

[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.]