
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 198

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LOCAL REPRESENTATION ON THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL FOR LOCAL PROJECTS.

SUMMARY

For any Connecticut Siting Council proceeding occurring on or after October 1, 2024, this bill requires the council's membership to include an elector from the municipality where the facility is being proposed, in addition to the existing membership (see BACKGROUND). Under the bill, the municipality's chief elected official generally must appoint the elector. However, if the proposed facility is in more than one municipality, the applicable regional council of governments for the affected municipalities must appoint the elector.

The bill requires the elector to serve as a nonvoting member and abide by all applicable confidentiality rules. By law, public members of the council must be compensated for their attendance at public hearings, executive sessions, or other council business at a rate of \$200 per activity, capped at \$200 a day.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Siting Council Membership — Energy and Telecommunications

For energy and telecommunications facility proceedings, the existing council membership includes the following nine members:

1. the energy and environmental protection commissioner or her designee,
2. the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority chairperson or her

designee,

3. one designee each from the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore, and
4. five members of the public appointed by the governor.

At least two of the public members must have ecology experience. Only one may have a past or present affiliation with a (1) utility; (2) utility regulatory agency; or (3) person owning, operating, controlling, or contracting with a facility, hazardous waste facility, or ash residue disposal area.

Siting Council Membership — Hazardous Waste

For hazardous waste facility proceedings, the existing council consists of the following 13 members:

1. the public health and emergency services and public protection commissioners or their designees,
2. the designees of the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore as described above,
3. the five members of the public appointed by the governor as described above, and
4. four ad hoc members, three of whom are electors from the municipality where the facility is being proposed and one from a neighboring municipality likely to be most affected by the proposed facility.

By law, if any of the governor's appointed public members or the House speaker's or Senate president pro tempore's designees live in the municipality where a hazardous or low-level radioactive waste facility is proposed or in the neighboring municipality most likely to be affected by the proposed facility, then the appointing authority must appoint a substitute member for the proceedings on that proposed facility.

Related Bill

HB 5453, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, makes various changes to the Connecticut Siting Council's membership, including adding four ad hoc members from the affected municipalities, among other things.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 2 (03/15/2024)