



PA 24-37—sSB 384

Energy and Technology Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD

SUMMARY: This act redesignates the “Low-Income Energy Advisory Board” as the “Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory Board” and makes related and other changes to it. This includes adding reporting requirements, broadening the scope of the advice and assistance the board may give state agencies, and changing the qualifications for two of the board’s members.

More specifically, the act requires the board to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the availability and implementation of heating and water assistance programs benefiting low-income and moderate-income households, including the Connecticut Low Income Household Water Assistance Program.

It also requires the board to develop recommendations for improving the availability, administration, and implementation of heating and water assistance programs (particularly those created to benefit low-income households) by coordinating and optimizing existing energy efficiency, water conservation, and energy assistance programs. Beginning by October 15, 2024, the board must biennially report these improvement recommendations to the Appropriations, Energy and Technology, and Human Services committees.

The act also authorizes the board to advise and assist the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), Department of Social Services (DSS), and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) in planning, developing, implementing, and coordinating water-assistance-related programs and policies, including those to alleviate the impact of utility rates. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the board must advise and assist OPM and DSS on energy-assistance-related programs and advise DEEP on the impact of utility rates and policies.

Additionally, the act changes one of the board’s members, replacing the Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut’s executive director with a designee of Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. who must represent Connecticut Legal Services, Inc., Greater Hartford Legal Aid, or the New Haven Legal Assistance Association.

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes, including making Operation Fuel’s chief executive officer, rather than its executive director, a board member and removing an obsolete reporting provision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024