

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 24-98—SB 336

Planning and Development Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF
HARTFORD COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

SUMMARY: By law, the consumer counsel must appoint an independent consumer advocate to advocate for and represent Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) customers in matters that may affect them, (e.g., rates, water quality, water supply, and wastewater service quality). This act increases, from \$50,000 to \$70,000, the maximum annual amount MDC must pay for the consumer advocate's costs. As under existing law, MDC's board may approve additional funds if the advocate demonstrates substantial need for them.

The act expands who can qualify as the consumer advocate to include a Connecticut attorney with legal experience in municipal, environmental, or public utility law and policy, rather than one with private legal experience in public utility law and policy. It also removes the requirement that the consumer counsel appoint the advocate by November in advance of the advocate's two-year term, which under the act starts January 1 in odd-numbered, rather than even-numbered, years. The act gives the consumer counsel discretion to change the advocate's term length, start date, and expiration date if there is a vacancy or it is in MDC's consumers' best interests.

The act also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024