AN ACT CONCERNING NATURAL GAS CAPACITY AND THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD.

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

Section 1. (Effective from passage) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall study natural gas capacity in the state. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) An evaluation of natural gas capacity in the state; and (2) an examination of ways to expand natural gas capacity, including any necessary regulatory or legislative changes. Not later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the results of the study, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology.

Sec. 2. Subdivision (20) of subsection (a) of section 16-1 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2024):

(20) "Class I renewable energy source" means (A) electricity derived
from (i) solar power, (ii) wind power, (iii) a fuel cell, (iv) geothermal, (v) landfill methane gas, anaerobic digestion or other biogas derived from biological sources, (vi) thermal electric direct energy conversion from a certified Class I renewable energy source, (vii) ocean thermal power, (viii) wave or tidal power, (ix) low emission advanced renewable energy conversion technologies, including, but not limited to, zero emission low grade heat power generation systems based on organic oil free rankine, kalina or other similar nonsteam cycles that use waste heat from an industrial or commercial process that does not generate electricity, (x) [(I) a run-of-the-river] hydropower, [facility that began operation after July 1, 2003, has a generating capacity of not more than sixty megawatts, is not based on a new dam or a dam identified by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection as a candidate for removal, and meets applicable state and federal requirements, including state dam safety requirements and applicable site-specific standards for water quality and fish passage, or (II) a run-of-the-river hydropower facility that received a new license after January 1, 2018, under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rules pursuant to 18 CFR 16, as amended from time to time, is not based on a new dam or a dam identified by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection as a candidate for removal, and meets applicable state and federal requirements, including state dam safety requirements and applicable site-specific standards for water quality and fish passage,] (xi) a biomass facility that uses sustainable biomass fuel and has an average emission rate of equal to or less than .075 pounds of nitrogen oxides per million BTU of heat input for the previous calendar quarter, except that energy derived from a biomass facility with a capacity of less than five hundred kilowatts that began construction before July 1, 2003, may be considered a Class I renewable energy source, or (xii) a nuclear power generating facility, [constructed on or after October 1, 2023,] or (B) any electrical generation, including distributed generation, generated from a Class I renewable energy source, provided, on and after January 1, 2014, any megawatt hours of electricity from a renewable energy source described under this subparagraph that are claimed or counted by a load-serving entity, province or state toward
compliance with renewable portfolio standards or renewable energy policy goals in another province or state, other than the state of Connecticut, shall not be eligible for compliance with the renewable portfolio standards established pursuant to section 16-245a;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>from passage</th>
<th>New section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 2</td>
<td>July 1, 2024</td>
<td>16-1(a)(20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Purpose:**
To (1) study expanding natural gas capacity in the state, and (2) adjust the Renewable Portfolio Standard by redefining "Class I renewable energy source" to include all electricity derived from hydropower and nuclear power.

[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.]