



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4989



Offered by:

REP. PALM, 36<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. ARZENO, 151<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
REP. BUMGARDNER, 41<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
REP. CHAFEE, 33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
REP. GRESKO, 121<sup>st</sup> Dist.

REP. JOHNSON, 143<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
REP. PARKER, 101<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
REP. RADER, 98<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. STEINBERG, 136<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. LOPES, 6<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5004

File No. 613

Cal. No. 216

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The state hereby declares a  
4 climate crisis to demonstrate the urgency for enacting meaningful  
5 climate legislation and to support increased efforts to secure federal  
6 funds to respond to such crisis. Such crisis threatens the resilience of  
7 communities in the state, regardless of zip code, multiple aspects of the  
8 state's natural resources and infrastructure assets, the state's economy  
9 and the quality of life for younger and future generations of state  
10 residents. Accordingly, the state recognizes the urgency to significantly  
11 and rapidly decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase  
12 community coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate change.

13 The state recognizes the need and urgency to mitigate climate impacts  
14 and prepare for and manage disaster risk from climate change. Such  
15 declaration shall not authorize the Governor to utilize the provisions of  
16 this section to operate the government of the state through executive  
17 order.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) In the aggregate, state  
19 agencies shall have the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
20 goals: (1) A forty-five per cent reduction from 2001 levels by 2030; (2) a  
21 seventy per cent reduction from 2016 levels by 2040; and (3) achieving a  
22 level determined to be net-zero by 2050.

23 (b) Such state agencies shall have the goal of only utilizing zero-  
24 carbon generating electricity by 2030.

25 Sec. 3. Section 22a-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
26 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

27 As used in sections 22a-200 to 22a-200b, inclusive, as amended by this  
28 act, 22a-200d and 4a-67h:

29 (1) "Direct emissions" means emissions from sources that are owned  
30 or operated, in whole or in part, by an entity or facility, including, but  
31 not limited to, emissions from factory stacks, manufacturing processes  
32 and vents, and company owned or leased motor vehicles;

33 (2) "Entity" means a person, as defined in section 22a-2, that owns or  
34 operates, in whole or in part, a source of greenhouse gas emissions from  
35 a generator of electricity or a commercial or industrial site, which source  
36 may include, but not be limited to, a transportation fleet;

37 (3) "Facility" means a building, structure or installation located on any  
38 one or more contiguous or adjacent properties of an entity;

39 (4) "Greenhouse gas" means any chemical or physical substance that  
40 is emitted into the air and that the Commissioner of Energy and  
41 Environmental Protection may reasonably anticipate will cause or  
42 contribute to climate change, including, but not limited to, carbon

43 dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons  
44 and sulfur hexafluoride;

45 (5) "Indirect emissions" means emissions associated with the  
46 consumption of purchased electricity; [, steam and heating or cooling by  
47 an entity or facility]

48 (6) "Carbon sequestration" means the removal of carbon dioxide from  
49 the atmosphere through nature-based solutions, including, but not  
50 limited to, soils, forests, wetlands or working or natural lands, and  
51 technological solutions, including, but not limited to, carbon recovery  
52 technologies, that have the primary purpose of removing carbon  
53 dioxide from the atmosphere.

54 Sec. 4. Section 22a-200a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
55 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

56 (a) The state shall reduce the level of emissions of greenhouse gas:

57 (1) Not later than January 1, 2020, to a level at least ten per cent below  
58 the level emitted in 1990;

59 (2) Not later than January 1, 2030, to a level at least forty-five per cent  
60 below the level emitted in 2001;

61 (3) Not later than January 1, 2040, to a level at least sixty-five per cent  
62 below the level emitted in 2001, including to a level of zero per cent from  
63 electricity supplied to electric customers in the state;

64 (4) Not later than January 1, 2050, to [a] an economy-wide net-zero  
65 level, provided direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gases are at  
66 least eighty per cent below the level emitted in 2001; and

67 (5) All of the levels referenced in this subsection shall be determined  
68 by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

69 (b) On or before January 1, 2010, and biannually thereafter, the state  
70 agencies that are members of the Governor's Steering Committee on

71 Climate Change shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of  
72 Policy and Management and the Commissioner of Energy and  
73 Environmental Protection. The report shall identify existing and  
74 proposed activities and improvements to the facilities of such agencies  
75 that are designed to meet state agency energy savings goals established  
76 by the Governor. The report shall also identify policies and regulations  
77 that could be adopted in the near future by such agencies to reduce  
78 greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with subsection (a) of this  
79 section.

80 (c) (1) Not later than January 1, 2012, and every three years thereafter,  
81 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in  
82 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
83 and the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change, report, in  
84 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
85 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
86 relating to the environment, energy and transportation on the  
87 quantifiable emissions reductions achieved pursuant to subsection (a)  
88 of this section. The report shall include a schedule of proposed  
89 regulations, policies and strategies, including, but not limited to, carbon  
90 sequestration, designed to achieve the limits of greenhouse gas  
91 emissions imposed by said subsection, an assessment of the latest  
92 scientific information and relevant data regarding global climate change  
93 and the status of greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts in other  
94 states and countries.

95 (2) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may  
96 enter into an agreement with a consultant for the preparation of a report  
97 to be submitted not later than January 1, 2026, to the joint standing  
98 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
99 relating to the environment and energy. Such report shall: (A)  
100 Determine viable strategies for carbon sequestration, (B) contain  
101 strategies for achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reductions  
102 required in subsection (a) of this section, (C) indicate whether a strategy  
103 to achieve such limits should include sector specific emission reduction  
104 targets and, if so, in what manner and order of priority such sector

105 specific targets should be implemented, and (D) evaluate the adequacy  
106 of the standards contained in section 16-245a.

107 (d) At least one year prior to the effective date of any federally  
108 mandated greenhouse cap and trade program including greenhouse gas  
109 emissions subject to any state cap and trade requirements adopted  
110 pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Energy and  
111 Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
112 Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
113 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
114 cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and  
115 technology and transportation. Such report shall explain the differences  
116 between such federal and state requirements and shall identify any  
117 further regulatory or legislative actions needed to achieve consistency  
118 with such federal program.

119 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 22a-200b of the general statutes is  
120 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
121 *passage*):

122 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall,  
123 with the advice and assistance of a nonprofit association organized to  
124 provide scientific, technical, analytical and policy support to the air  
125 quality and climate programs of northeastern states: (1) Not later than  
126 December 1, 2009, publish an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions to  
127 establish a baseline for such emissions for the state and publish a  
128 summary of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies on the  
129 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Internet web  
130 site, (2) not later than July 1, 2010, publish results of various modeling  
131 scenarios concerning greenhouse gas emissions, including, but not  
132 limited to, an evaluation of the potential economic and environmental  
133 benefits and opportunities for economic growth based on such  
134 scenarios, (3) not later than July 1, 2011, analyze greenhouse gas  
135 emission reduction strategies and, after an opportunity for public  
136 comment, make recommendations on which such strategies will achieve  
137 the greenhouse gas emission levels specified in section 22a-200a, as

138 amended by this act, and (4) not later than July 1, 2012, and every three  
139 years thereafter, develop, with an opportunity for public comment, a  
140 schedule of recommended regulatory actions by relevant agencies,  
141 policies and other actions necessary to [show] make reasonable further  
142 progress towards achieving the greenhouse gas emission levels  
143 specified in section 22a-200a, as amended by this act, to attain the levels  
144 specified in said section by the relevant date provided. Such regulatory  
145 actions may include carbon sequestration.

146 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
147 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate an uncontested  
148 proceeding regarding the future of natural gas use in the state in relation  
149 to the provisions of section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended  
150 by this act. Such proceeding shall include, but need not be limited to,  
151 the consideration and implementation of beneficial electrification  
152 measures such as geothermal systems and heat pumps, the integration  
153 of natural gas and electric company joint planning processes. Upon  
154 completion of such uncontested proceeding, said authority shall submit  
155 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
156 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
157 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy on  
158 any recommendations for legislative changes necessary to implement  
159 the findings of such docket.

160 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before July 1, 2026, the  
161 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, within available  
162 appropriations, establish a centralized data dashboard that shall be  
163 offered through a publicly accessible Internet web site through which  
164 residents of the state have access to high-quality data that is relevant to  
165 ratepayer-funded clean and renewable energy programs. Such  
166 centralized data dashboard shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

167 (1) Data related to ratepayer-funded clean and renewable energy  
168 programs overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; (2) a  
169 complete list of Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section  
170 16-1 of the general statutes, including those located in the state, that are

171 connected to the electric distribution system; (3) a complete list of  
172 energy storage projects in the state that are connected to the electric  
173 distribution system; and (4) key metrics and other information related  
174 to the affordability of the services provided by the electric distribution  
175 companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, at the  
176 discretion of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

177 (b) The authority shall develop and maintain such centralized data  
178 dashboard Internet web site and may enter into an agreement with a  
179 consultant for the development of such centralized data dashboard  
180 Internet web site, provided any costs related to such consultant's  
181 development of such centralized data dashboard Internet web site shall  
182 not be recoverable through a fully reconciling component of electric  
183 rates for all customers of electric distribution companies.

184 (c) Each such electric distribution company shall be responsible for  
185 collecting and providing the information required pursuant to this  
186 section to the authority. An electric distribution company shall be  
187 deemed compliant with the requirements of this section when any such  
188 requisite information is provided to the authority through a docket or  
189 directive of said authority.

190 (d) Not less than annually, or at a more frequent interval as  
191 determined by the authority, the data required pursuant to subsection  
192 (a) of this section shall be updated with the most up-to-date information  
193 reasonably available to the authority and the electric distribution  
194 companies.

195 Sec. 8. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 32-7t of the 2024  
196 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
197 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

198 (3) The commissioner, upon consideration of an application and any  
199 additional information, may approve an application in whole or in part  
200 or may approve an application with amendments, provided the  
201 commissioner shall give preference to applications that: (A) Make  
202 significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices,

203 including, but not limited to, zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency,  
204 (B) are in sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, energy  
205 efficiency and zero-emission vehicles, or (C) are for farming operations  
206 that are sustainable from a climate perspective. If the commissioner  
207 disapproves an application, the commissioner shall identify the defects  
208 in such application and explain the specific reasons for the disapproval.  
209 The commissioner shall render a decision on an application not later  
210 than ninety days after the date of its receipt by the commissioner.

211 Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State shall identify  
212 a list of registration or renewal fees or other fees that are appropriate for  
213 waiver for any: (1) Benefit corporation, as defined in section 33-1351 of  
214 the general statutes, and (2) farm that uses climate-smart agriculture and  
215 forestry practices developed or prescribed by the United States  
216 Department of Agriculture. Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary  
217 of the State shall submit a list of such fees to the joint standing committee  
218 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
219 environment.

220 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
221 Connecticut Clean Economy Council that shall advise on economic  
222 development strategies and policies that strengthen the state's climate  
223 mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability programs, in  
224 particular for vulnerable communities, as defined in section 16-243y of  
225 the general statutes.

226 (b) Such council shall meet not less than quarterly, at dates, times and  
227 locations to be established by the cochairpersons of such council. The  
228 council shall: (1) Identify opportunities to leverage state and federal  
229 funding to scale economic opportunities associated with clean energy,  
230 climate and sustainability investments and maximize local economic  
231 development benefits from investments needed to meet the climate and  
232 sustainability goals of the state, (2) develop workforce development  
233 strategies that complement the greenhouse gas emissions goals in  
234 subsection (a) of section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended by  
235 this act, through the: (A) Development of work-based learning



236 programs; (B) development of certificate and degree programs at  
237 technical education and career schools and institutions of higher  
238 education in the state; (C) identification of available funding, whether  
239 from a public or private source, to fund the development of such work-  
240 based learning and certificate and degree programs and the provision  
241 of grants to apprentices and students; and (D) implementation of a  
242 strategy to market and recruit individuals, in particular from  
243 underrepresented populations, to existing and newly developed work-  
244 based learning programs and certificate and degree programs at job  
245 centers, technical education and career schools and institutions of higher  
246 education, (3) develop strategies for utilizing the workforce parameters  
247 described in section 31-53d of the general statutes, (4) support diverse  
248 and equitable participation in the workforce with a goal of creating  
249 opportunities for populations that are underrepresented in the  
250 workforce such as residents of environmental justice communities, as  
251 defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes, women, minorities  
252 and formerly incarcerated persons, and (5) advise the Governor and the  
253 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development on any state-  
254 wide economic action plan. The council may form working groups to  
255 address workforce development in specific sectors within the fields of  
256 clean energy and sustainability.

257 (c) Such council shall develop a plan to facilitate the transition of  
258 workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs  
259 consistent with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such plan  
260 shall be submitted not later than February 1, 2026, to the joint standing  
261 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
262 relating to the environment, energy and commerce, in accordance with  
263 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

264 (d) Such council shall be composed of the following members: (1) The  
265 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the  
266 commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as a cochairperson of the  
267 council, (2) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,  
268 or the commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson  
269 of the council, (3) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,

270 or the secretary's designee, (4) the Commissioner of Transportation, or  
271 the commissioner's designee, (5) the Chief Workforce Officer, or said  
272 officer's designee, who shall also serve as a cochairperson of the council,  
273 (6) a representative from the office of the Governor, (7) the chief  
274 executive officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief executive  
275 officer's designee, (8) the chief executive officer of Connecticut  
276 Innovations, Incorporated, or the chief executive officer's designee, (9)  
277 the Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, (10) the  
278 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee,  
279 (11) one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate,  
280 who shall be a representative of a regional workforce development  
281 board, (12) one member appointed by the speaker of the House of  
282 Representatives, who shall be a member of the Connecticut Technical  
283 Education Career System, (13) one member appointed by the majority  
284 leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of a nonprofit  
285 organization that focuses on helping people overcome barriers to  
286 workforce participation, (14) one member appointed by the majority  
287 leader of the House of Representatives, who shall have expertise in  
288 hiring and training employees in the trades related to green  
289 technologies, (15) one member appointed by the minority leader of the  
290 Senate, who shall be a representative of a higher education institution  
291 and have expertise in technical education, (16) one member appointed  
292 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a  
293 member of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council, and (17) any  
294 other member so designated by the cochairpersons. Any member  
295 appointed pursuant to subdivision (17) of this subsection shall serve at  
296 the pleasure of the cochairpersons of the council.

297 (e) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a  
298 quorum.

299 (f) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the  
300 council shall report on its work, findings and recommendations to the  
301 Governor, the Office of Policy and Management and the joint standing  
302 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
303 relating to the environment, energy, higher education and commerce, in

304 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

305 Sec. 11. Section 31-3rr of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
306 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
307 *passage*):

308 (a) As used in this section and section 10a-55g:

309 (1) "Green jobs" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-55d;

310 (2) "Green technology" has the same meaning as provided in section  
311 10a-55d; and

312 (3) "Career ladder" means a description of the progression from an  
313 entry level position to higher levels of pay, skill, responsibility or  
314 authority.

315 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Connecticut Clean Economy  
316 Council, in consultation with the Office of Higher Education,  
317 Department of Education, Labor Department, Department of Energy  
318 and Environmental Protection, regional workforce development boards  
319 and employers, shall, within available appropriations, identify a career  
320 ladder for jobs in the green technology industry, including, but not  
321 limited to, a listing of (1) careers at each level of the green technology  
322 industry and the requisite level of education and the salary offered for  
323 such career, (2) all course, certificate and degree programs in green jobs  
324 offered by technical education and career schools within the Technical  
325 Education and Career System and institutions of higher education in the  
326 state, and (3) jobs available in the green technology industry in the state.  
327 The Connecticut Clean Economy Council shall update the green jobs  
328 career ladder established pursuant to this section on an as needed basis.

329 [(c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Connecticut Clean Economy  
330 Council shall develop a plan for green jobs workforce training to  
331 accomplish the greenhouse gas emissions goals set forth in subsection  
332 (a) of section 22a-200a. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited  
333 to, (1) development of work-based learning programs for green jobs

334 with workforce shortages; (2) development of certificate and degree  
335 programs related to the green technology industry at technical  
336 education and career schools and institutions of higher education in the  
337 state; (3) identification of available funding, whether from a public or  
338 private source, to fund the development of such work-based learning  
339 and certificate and degree programs and provide grants to apprentices  
340 and students; and (4) a strategy to market and recruit individuals,  
341 especially from underrepresented populations, to existing and newly  
342 developed green jobs work-based learning programs and certificate and  
343 degree programs related to the green technology industry at job centers,  
344 technical education and career schools and institutions of higher  
345 education. Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, said  
346 council shall update such plan as necessary.

347 (d) Not later than February 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
348 Connecticut Clean Economy Council shall submit, in accordance with  
349 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the  
350 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
351 education and employment advancement the plan developed or  
352 updated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.]

353 Sec. 12. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
354 study underutilized sites, including brownfields, throughout the state  
355 for utilization by entrepreneurs in the climate and green economy  
356 sector, including, but not limited to, entrepreneurs engaged in  
357 developing alternatives to plastic. Such task force shall identify  
358 additional resources and strategies needed to create successful green  
359 economy incubators in various geographic locations throughout the  
360 state and examine how municipalities can help foster such incubator  
361 growth.

362 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

363 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
364 one of whom has expertise in the promotion of environmentally  
365 sustainable businesses in the state and one of whom has expertise in

366 promoting energy efficiency throughout the state;

367 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
368 whom shall be from an organization that promotes young  
369 entrepreneurs in the state and one of whom shall be from an  
370 organization that promotes climate-smart agriculture in the state;

371 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
372 Representatives who shall be from an organization that is for young  
373 persons interested in climate change action;

374 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who shall be  
375 from an organization that specializes in architectural heritage;

376 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
377 Representatives who shall be from an incubator program at a college or  
378 university in the state;

379 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who shall be  
380 a representative of an organization that advocates on behalf of  
381 municipalities in the state;

382 (7) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or  
383 the commissioner's designee;

384 (8) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
385 or the commissioner's designee;

386 (9) The Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or  
387 such officer's designee; and

388 (10) The Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Innovations, Inc., or  
389 such officer's designee.

390 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
391 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
392 of the General Assembly.

393 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later

394 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
395 be filled by the appointing authority.

396 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
397 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force from  
398 among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall schedule  
399 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
400 days after the effective date of this section.

401 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committees of the  
402 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
403 environment and commerce shall serve as administrative staff of the  
404 task force.

405 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report  
406 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees  
407 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
408 environment and commerce, in accordance with the provisions of  
409 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on  
410 the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

411 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before February 15, 2025,  
412 and every three years thereafter, the Public Utilities Regulatory  
413 Authority shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
414 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
415 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy, regarding  
416 the quantifiable progress of behind-the-meter energy storage  
417 deployment across residential and nonresidential sectors. In the  
418 intervening years between such reports, the authority shall take actions,  
419 through its annual uncontested program review proceeding designed to  
420 increase energy storage capacity in the state, that are consistent with the  
421 program objectives of providing positive net present value to all  
422 ratepayers, providing multiple types of benefits to the electric grid and  
423 fostering the sustained, orderly development of a state-based electric  
424 energy storage industry.

425 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 10-283 of the general statutes is

426 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
427 *2024*):

428 (b) Notwithstanding the application date requirements of this  
429 section, at any time within the limit of available grant authorization and  
430 within the limit of appropriated funds, the Commissioner of  
431 Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
432 Education, may approve applications for grants and make payments for  
433 such grants, for any of the following reasons: (A) To assist school  
434 building projects to remedy damage from fire and catastrophe, (B) to  
435 correct safety, health and other code violations, (C) to replace roofs,  
436 including the replacement or installation of skylights as part of the roof  
437 replacement project, (D) to remedy a certified school indoor air quality  
438 emergency, (E) to install insulation for exterior walls and attics, or (F) to  
439 purchase and install a limited use and limited access elevator, windows,  
440 photovoltaic panels, air source or ground source heat pumps, wind  
441 generation systems, building management systems or portable  
442 classroom buildings, provided portable classroom building projects  
443 shall not create a new facility or cause an existing facility to be modified  
444 so that the portable buildings comprise a substantial percentage of the  
445 total facility area, as determined by the commissioner.

446 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1,  
447 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in  
448 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
449 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General  
450 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on  
451 recommendations for amendments to section 16a-48 of the general  
452 statutes to provide for the sale and installation in the state of heating,  
453 ventilation and air conditioning systems, hot water heating systems and  
454 geothermal systems that do not emit greenhouse gases. Such  
455 recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, suggested  
456 implementation dates for any such requirement and proposed  
457 consumer education efforts to inform the public about such systems.

458 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) The Commissioner of

459 Energy and Environmental Protection shall develop a plan for the  
460 installation of heat pumps for heating systems in the state, including,  
461 but not limited to, through any program established pursuant to section  
462 8-240a, 16-245n, 16a-40b, 16a-40l or 16a-46m of the general statutes. Such  
463 plan shall include a target number of heat pump installations that is  
464 consistent with the goals of the United States Climate Alliance, and  
465 prioritize installation for residences in environmental justice  
466 communities and long-term care facilities where not less than eighty per  
467 cent of such residents are Medicaid recipients in good financial standing  
468 with the state. Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall  
469 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
470 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General  
471 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and  
472 energy on the status of such plan in reaching such goal and any  
473 attendant recommendations for expanding or revising such plan.

474 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may  
475 establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide rebates,  
476 at the point of sale, for the purchase of heat pumps intended for heating  
477 systems in the state. Such program may utilize funding available from  
478 federal programs or state bond authorizations.

479 Sec. 17. Subsection (g) of section 8-23 of the general statutes is  
480 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
481 *passage*):

482 (g) (1) Any municipal plan of conservation and development  
483 scheduled for adoption on or after July 1, 2015, shall identify the general  
484 location and extent of any [(1)] (A) areas served by existing sewerage  
485 systems, [(2)] (B) areas where sewerage systems are planned, and [(3)]  
486 (C) areas where sewers are to be avoided. In identifying such areas, the  
487 commission shall consider the provisions of this section and the priority  
488 funding area provisions of chapter 297a.

489 (2) Any municipal plan of conservation and development scheduled  
490 for adoption on or after October 1, 2026, shall evaluate environmental



491 sustainability and climate resiliency for such municipality.

492 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the Office of  
493 Policy and Management, in consultation with the Department of  
494 Administrative Services, shall develop a model policy or guidelines for  
495 environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities may  
496 voluntarily utilize and implement. Such policy or guidelines shall  
497 include, but need not be limited to, a list of any state contracts for  
498 sustainable purchasing that allow for municipal participation. The  
499 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall post such policy or  
500 guidelines to the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative  
501 Services not later than January 1, 2025.

502 Sec. 19. Subsection (e) of section 7-536 of the 2024 supplement to the  
503 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
504 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

505 (e) (1) Each municipality may apply to the secretary for project  
506 authorization and expense reimbursement of local capital improvement  
507 projects.

508 (2) Notwithstanding the deadlines imposed by this section, each  
509 municipality that has expended funds in the fiscal year ending June 30,  
510 2013, on projects listed in subparagraphs (T) to (X), inclusive, of  
511 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section may apply to the  
512 secretary for reimbursement of such expenses.

513 (3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of  
514 subsection (f) of this section, the secretary, at the secretary's discretion,  
515 may authorize expense reimbursement for a project listed in  
516 subparagraphs (T) to (Y), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a)  
517 of this section prior to such project's inclusion on the local capital  
518 improvement plan adopted by a municipality. The secretary may  
519 require certification from the municipality that such municipality is  
520 taking steps to amend its local capital improvement plan to include such  
521 project.

522 (B) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
523 for the period commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, the  
524 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any  
525 project listed in subparagraph (Y) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of  
526 this section from funds appropriated to the Office of Policy and  
527 Management for such projects.

528 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
529 for the period commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the  
530 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any  
531 municipality that is a certified Sustainable CT town and that was  
532 awarded points under said program for implementing a sustainable  
533 purchasing policy.

534 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
535 2026, the Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with  
536 the Office of Policy and Management, the Departments of Energy and  
537 Environmental Protection and Transportation, and any other state  
538 agency deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Administrative  
539 Services, shall establish a process for said commissioner to consider  
540 when making any decision to remodel, alter, repair, construct or enlarge  
541 any state real asset, pursuant to section 4b-51 of the general statutes, the  
542 capability of such state real asset to: (1) Increase energy efficiency, (2)  
543 utilize zero-carbon heating and cooling and water heating alternatives,  
544 (3) utilize Class I renewable energy, as defined in section 16-1 of the  
545 general statutes, (4) facilitate electric vehicle charging, and (5) reduce  
546 energy use.

547 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Administrative  
548 Services, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management and  
549 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall develop  
550 a plan and a budget to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and  
551 cooling systems at state buildings to systems capable of being operated  
552 without carbon-emitting fuels. Such plan and budget shall be submitted,  
553 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
554 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having

555 cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy.

556       Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of  
557 Energy and Environmental Protection shall prioritize the use of nature-  
558 based solutions to support climate change mitigation and adaptation  
559 and increase biodiversity. The commissioner shall prepare a report that  
560 includes an assessment and review of program guidelines and planning  
561 documentation and the identification of existing agency programs  
562 through which the department advanced or continues to advance  
563 nature-based solutions in the state that support climate change  
564 mitigation and adaptation. Such draft report shall examine the potential  
565 for expanding the use of nature-based solutions in the following  
566 programs: (1) The microgrid and resilience grant and loan pilot program  
567 authorized pursuant to section 16-243y of the general statutes, (2) the  
568 open space and watershed land acquisition program authorized  
569 pursuant to sections 7-131d to 7-131k, inclusive, of the general statutes,  
570 and (3) other applicable state and federal programs administered by the  
571 department that advance nature-based solutions, including, but not  
572 limited to, (A) federal Clean Water Act programs, (B) the Long Island  
573 Sound Study program, and (C) the Urban Forestry program. The  
574 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's efforts to  
575 advance such nature-based solutions shall be known as the nature-  
576 based solutions initiative.

577       (b) In preparing the report described in subsection (a) of this section,  
578 the commissioner shall identify best practices to encourage the use of  
579 the state's ecosystems to naturally sequester and store carbon, reduce  
580 greenhouse gas emissions, increase biodiversity, and protect against  
581 climate change impacts, including: (1) Increasing carbon sequestration  
582 through increased forest acreage, including reforestation, (2) controlling  
583 invasive species, (3) encouraging soil health across all landscapes, (4)  
584 protecting carbon stocks through avoiding the conversion of forests and  
585 wetlands to other purposes, (5) restoring habitats, (6) increasing climate-  
586 smart agriculture and soil conservation to reduce greenhouse gas  
587 emissions while improving habitat and protecting biodiversity, (7)  
588 increasing community resilience by improving water quality and

589 addressing flooding and drought through nature-based stormwater  
590 management and shoreline protection that uses nature-based  
591 approaches such as living shorelines, and (8) improving air quality and  
592 reducing urban heat island effects through urban forestry and  
593 increasing green spaces.

594 (c) Not later than November 30, 2024, the commissioner shall post  
595 such report on the department's Internet web site for review and written  
596 comment. The commissioner shall provide the report to the following  
597 state agencies for review and input: The Departments of Agriculture,  
598 Public Health, Housing and Transportation, the Connecticut Green  
599 Bank and the Office of Policy and Management. In addition, the  
600 commissioner shall host one listening session after the report is so  
601 posted in order to seek public comment. Not later than December 31,  
602 2024, the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
603 4a of the general statutes, shall submit such report to the joint standing  
604 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
605 relating to the environment.

606 Sec. 22. (*Effective from passage*) On or before July 1, 2025, the  
607 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation  
608 with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, shall develop and  
609 approve a solar canopy strategic plan. The plan shall identify  
610 opportunities and potential sites for solar canopies in the state and shall  
611 prioritize the development of solar canopies in environmental justice  
612 communities, as defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes. Such  
613 potential sites may include, but need not be limited to, parking lots in  
614 the state. The plan shall include an examination of different ways to  
615 promote solar canopies, including at schools, government buildings and  
616 parking lots, and shall include recommendations for policies, programs  
617 or regulations to promote the construction of solar canopies in the state,  
618 consistent with the greenhouse gas reduction goals established in  
619 section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the  
620 Integrated Resources Plan approved pursuant to section 16a-3a of the  
621 general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared  
622 pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes.

623       Sec. 23. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
624 study the current electric transmission system in the state and region  
625 and any upgrades and enhancements required to support the state's  
626 reliability, affordability and clean energy needs. The task force shall  
627 consider in-state and regional transmission upgrades, regional needs,  
628 cost-benefit analyses and the potential use of grid enhancing  
629 technologies, advanced conductors and energy storage as a  
630 transmission asset.

631       (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

632       (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
633 who shall have expertise concerning currently existing electric  
634 transmission infrastructure in the state;

635       (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
636 shall be a representative of an environmental advocacy organization  
637 with expertise in renewable energy;

638       (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
639 Representatives, who shall have expertise in grid enhancing  
640 technologies;

641       (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall  
642 have expertise in the regional transmission system;

643       (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
644 Representatives, who shall have expertise concerning technologies that  
645 are currently used in the state's transmission system;

646       (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall  
647 have expertise concerning the environmental impact of updating or  
648 replacing electric transmission infrastructure;

649       (7) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or  
650 the commissioner's designee;

651       (8) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or

652 the chairperson's designee;

653 (9) A representative from an electric distribution company that has a  
654 service area of eighteen or more cities and towns, who shall be  
655 appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the  
656 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and  
657 technology;

658 (10) A representative from an electric distribution company that has  
659 a service area of not more than seventeen cities and towns, who shall be  
660 appointed by the ranking members of the joint standing committee of  
661 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy  
662 and technology; and

663 (11) A representative from the Office of Consumer Counsel.

664 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
665 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
666 be filled by the appointing authority.

667 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
668 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force  
669 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
670 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later  
671 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

672 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
673 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and  
674 technology shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

675 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report  
676 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
677 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy  
678 and technology, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
679 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
680 submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200a
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200b(a)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2024	32-7t(c)(3)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	31-3rr
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 14	July 1, 2024	10-283(b)
Sec. 15	October 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 16	October 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	8-23(g)
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 19	July 1, 2024	7-536(e)
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	New section