



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 423**

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5472

*House of Representatives, April 7, 2026*

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF ENERGY GENERATION SOURCES AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Major incident" means any event at a facility described in  
3 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes  
4 that (A) requires an emergency shutoff of electricity flowing to or from  
5 such facility due to a hazardous condition at such facility, (B) requires  
6 any local emergency services personnel to respond to the site of such  
7 facility, or (C) causes injury requiring hospitalization to any person; and

8 (2) "Minor incident" means any unanticipated or unplanned  
9 shutdown of a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of  
10 section 16-50i of the general statutes that does not require any local  
11 emergency services personnel to respond to the site of such facility.  
12 "Minor incident" does not include the shutdown of such facility in

13 connection with scheduled or routine maintenance.

14 (b) Any person who receives a certificate from the Connecticut Siting  
15 Council to operate a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection  
16 (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes shall report any major  
17 incident or minor incident at such facility in a form and manner  
18 prescribed by the council. Any major incident shall be reported not later  
19 than five days after the occurrence of such incident, and any minor  
20 incident shall be reported not later than thirty days after the occurrence  
21 of such incident.

22 (c) Commencing on July 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the  
23 Connecticut Siting Council shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
24 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, detailing any reports  
25 the council has received pursuant to this section in the preceding year  
26 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
27 cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology.

28 Sec. 2. Section 16-50l of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is  
29 amended by adding subsections (i) and (j) as follows (*Effective October 1,*  
30 *2026*):

31 (NEW) (i) In addition to the requirements of this section, the council  
32 may, in the council's discretion, require that, as a condition of approval  
33 for any facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section  
34 16-50i, the applicant provide emergency services training specific to the  
35 proposed facility, at the applicant's sole expense, to firefighters or other  
36 emergency services personnel in any municipality in which such facility  
37 shall be located. If the council imposes such a condition pursuant to this  
38 subsection, the applicant shall provide notice of the availability of such  
39 training to the chief executive officer and fire marshal of any  
40 municipality in which such facility shall be located, as ordered by the  
41 council. The chief executive officer or fire marshal shall respond in  
42 writing to such notice not later than sixty days after the receipt of such  
43 notice and indicate whether firefighters or other emergency services  
44 personnel in the municipality request such training. If such training is  
45 so requested, the applicant will arrange for such training to be provided

46 not later than sixty days after such request.

47 (NEW) (j) (1) For the purposes of this subsection, "emergency contact  
48 person" means a person, including an entity or an organization,  
49 designated by an applicant or certificate holder pursuant to this section,  
50 who has authority to act on behalf of the applicant or certificate holder  
51 in the event of an emergency at a facility described in subdivision (3) of  
52 subsection (a) of section 16-50i. As a condition of approval under this  
53 section, an applicant shall (A) designate an emergency contact person  
54 for such facility, (B) provide the contact information for such emergency  
55 contact person to the council and both the chief executive officer and the  
56 local fire official of any municipality in which such facility is located,  
57 and (C) post a sign at each entrance to such facility displaying the  
58 contact information for such emergency contact person.

59 (2) Not later than January 1, 2027, any certificate holder that owns or  
60 operates a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of  
61 section 16-50i shall (A) designate an emergency contact person, (B)  
62 provide the contact information for such emergency contact person, in  
63 writing, to the council and both the chief executive officer and the local  
64 fire official of any municipality in which such facility is located, and (C)  
65 post a sign at each entrance to the facility displaying the contact  
66 information for such emergency contact person.

67 (3) If the person, entity or organization designated as the emergency  
68 contact person pursuant to this subsection has changed, or the contact  
69 information for such emergency contact person has changed, the  
70 applicant or certificate holder shall, not later than thirty days after such  
71 change, (A) provide written notice of such change to the council and  
72 both the chief executive officer and the local fire official of any  
73 municipality in which such facility is located, and (B) update each sign  
74 at the facility displaying the contact information for the emergency  
75 contact person.

76 (4) Any person designated as an emergency contact person pursuant  
77 to this subsection shall be available to respond to any emergency at such  
78 facility not later than one hour after the occurrence of such emergency.

79 If an emergency contact person fails to timely respond in the event of an  
80 emergency at such facility, any firefighter or other emergency services  
81 personnel who attempted to contact the emergency contact person shall  
82 file a written report with the council detailing such lack of response.

83 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than November  
84 1, 2026, the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in  
85 consultation with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
86 Protection and the Connecticut Siting Council, shall convene a working  
87 group within the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for the purpose  
88 of reviewing and assessing any processes concerning the resumption of  
89 electric generation services after a shutoff of such services at any facility  
90 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the  
91 general statutes that exceeds five days. Such review and assessment  
92 shall consider (1) any existing statutory, regulatory or contractual  
93 processes governing the resumption of electric generation services  
94 following an extended shutoff; (2) the adequacy of coordination among  
95 electric generation facility owners or operators, electric distribution  
96 companies, regional transmission organizations and state agencies; (3)  
97 potential risks to public safety or electric grid reliability associated with  
98 extended shutoffs and subsequent resumption of service; and (4) any  
99 recommendations for statutory, regulatory or procedural changes to  
100 improve transparency, coordination and safety upon the resumption of  
101 such services.

102 (b) The working group shall include:

103 (1) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or  
104 the chairperson's designee;

105 (2) The chairperson of the Connecticut Siting Council, or the  
106 chairperson's designee;

107 (3) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or  
108 the commissioner's designee;

109 (4) One or more representatives from an electric distribution

110 company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

111 (5) One or more owners or operators of an electric generation facility  
112 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the  
113 general statutes;

114 (6) A person employed by an institution of higher education in the  
115 state, who has expertise in electrical engineering or any field related to  
116 the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity;

117 (7) The Consumer Counsel, or the counsel's designee; and

118 (8) Any other interested party the chairperson deems appropriate.

119 (c) Not later than February 1, 2027, the chairperson of the Public  
120 Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, in accordance with the provisions  
121 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, submit a report on the efforts of  
122 such working group and any recommendations to the joint standing  
123 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
124 relating to energy and technology and public safety.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	16-50l(i) and (j)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2026	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 2, instances of "chief executive official" were changed to "chief executive officer" for conformity with the general statutes.

**ET** Joint Favorable Subst.

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*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill requires the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) to expand their jurisdiction over safety incidents at electric generation and storage systems. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as the CSC has the staff and expertise necessary to complete the requirements of the bill.

Additionally, the bill requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to convene a working group to study the process for resuming electric generation services at an electric generation or storage facility after a service shutoff that exceeds five days. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as PURA has the staff and expertise necessary to oversee the working group.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5472*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF ENERGY GENERATION SOURCES AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes certain requirements and provisions related to safety incidents at electric generation and storage systems subject to the Connecticut Siting Council's jurisdiction. It generally:

1. requires those electric generation and storage facilities to file reports on certain safety incidents with the council;
2. allows the council to require applicants for these facilities to give local firefighters or other emergency services personnel training specific to the proposed facility;
3. requires the council to require an applicant or certificate holder for these facilities to designate an emergency contact person for the facility; and
4. requires the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to convene a working group to study the process for resuming electric generation services at an electric generation or storage facility after a service shutoff that exceeds five days.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**INCIDENT REPORTS**

The bill requires any person (including entities) who has a Siting Council certificate to operate an electric generation or storage facility to report any major or minor incident at the facility in a form and way set by the council. Under the bill, they must report a major incident within

five days after it occurs, and a minor incident within 30 days after it occurs.

Under the bill, a “major incident” is any event at an electric generation or storage facility that (1) requires an emergency shutoff of electricity flowing to or from it due to a hazardous condition at the facility, (2) requires local emergency services personnel to respond to the facility, or (3) causes injury requiring someone’s hospitalization. A “minor incident” is an unanticipated or unplanned shutdown of the facility that does not require local emergency services personnel to respond. It does not include a shutdown for scheduled or routine maintenance.

The bill requires the Siting Council, starting on July 1, 2028, to annually give the Energy and Technology Committee a report detailing any reports on major and minor incidents the council received over the prior year.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING**

The bill allows the Siting Council to require, as a condition of approving an electric generation or storage facility, that the applicant provide emergency services training specific to the proposed facility to local firefighters or other emergency services personnel (those in any municipality where the facility will be located). The applicant must pay for the training.

If the council imposes this requirement, the bill requires the applicant to notify the local chief executive officer and fire marshal, as ordered by the council. The chief executive officer or fire marshal must respond to the notice in writing within 60 days after receiving it, and indicate whether firefighters or other emergency services personnel in the municipality request the training. If so, the applicant must arrange for the training to be given within 60 days after the request.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON**

The bill also requires the Siting Council, as a condition for approving a facility, to require an applicant to (1) designate an emergency contact

person for the facility, (2) give the person's contact information to the council and the chief executive officer and the local fire official of the municipality where the facility is located, and (3) post a sign displaying the contact person's contact information at each entrance to the facility. Additionally, any current certificate holder must take these steps by January 1, 2027.

Under the bill, an "emergency contact person" is a person (including an entity or an organization), designated by an applicant or certificate holder, who has authority to act on behalf of the applicant or certificate holder in the event of an emergency at an electric generation or storage facility.

If the designated emergency contact person or their contact information changes, the bill requires the applicant or certificate holder, within 30 days after the change, to (1) give written notice about the change to the council and the local chief executive officer and fire official and (2) update each sign displaying the contact information at the facility.

The bill requires the designated emergency contact person to be available to respond to any emergency at the facility within one hour after the emergency occurs. If the person fails to timely respond to an emergency at the facility, any firefighter or other emergency services personnel who tried to contact the emergency contact person must file a written report with the council detailing the lack of response.

### **PURA WORKING GROUP**

The bill requires PURA's chairperson, by November 1, 2026, and in consultation with the energy and environmental protection (DEEP) commissioner and Siting Council, to convene a working group within PURA to review and assess any processes on the resumption of electric generation services after a service shutoff at an electric generation or storage facility that exceeds five days. The review and assessment must consider:

1. any existing statutory, regulatory, or contractual processes

- governing the resumption of electric generation services after an extended shutoff;
2. the adequacy of coordination among electric generation facility owners or operators, electric distribution companies, regional transmission organizations, and state agencies;
  3. potential risks to public safety or electric grid reliability associated with extended shutoffs and subsequent service resumptions; and
  4. any recommendations for statutory, regulatory, or procedural changes to improve transparency, coordination, and safety when service resumes.

The bill requires the working group to include:

1. PURA's chairperson or his designee;
2. the Siting Council's chairperson or their designee;
3. the DEEP commissioner or her designee;
4. at least one representative from an electric distribution company (Eversource or United Illuminating);
5. at least one owner or operator of an electric generation facility subject to the Siting Council's jurisdiction;
6. an employee of a higher education institution in the state with expertise in electrical engineering or any field related to electricity generation, transmission, or distribution;
7. the consumer counsel or her designee; and
8. any other interested party the chairperson deems appropriate.

The bill requires PURA's chairperson, by February 1, 2027, to submit a report on the working group's efforts and recommendations to the Energy and Technology and Public Safety committees.

**BACKGROUND**

***Related Bill***

HB 5457, reported favorably by the Public Safety Committee, generally (1) requires local fire marshals to give the Siting Council an incident report for any fire or explosion at a solar photovoltaic electric generating facility under the council’s jurisdiction and (2) sets conditions under which the council (a) must open an amendment proceeding to require these facility owners to adopt a fire mitigation plan and (b) may require other similar facilities to do the same.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23      Nay 3      (03/19/2026)