



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 421**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING OF DOUBLE UTILITY POLES.**

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 and section 2 of this act:

3 (1) "Public utility pole" means a pole, including a portion of a pole,  
4 owned by a telephone company or an electric distribution company that  
5 is used to support wires for (A) the distribution of electricity, (B)  
6 telecommunications services, as defined in section 16-247a of the  
7 general statutes, or (C) the lighting of streets or sidewalks;

8 (2) "Double utility poles" means a replacement public utility pole  
9 built or installed alongside, or attached to, an existing public utility pole,  
10 or a portion of an existing public utility pole, for the purpose of  
11 transferring the wires from the existing utility pole to the replacement  
12 utility pole, provided the existing public utility pole, including any  
13 portion of such utility pole, has not been removed after the installation  
14 of the replacement utility pole;

15 (3) "Electric distribution company" has the same meaning as  
16 provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

17 (4) "Telephone company" has the same meaning as provided in

18 section 16-1 of the general statutes; and

19 (5) "User" means any person or entity, except for an electric  
20 distribution company, a telephone company, a municipality or a  
21 political subdivision of a municipality, that maintains equipment of any  
22 sort on a public utility pole.

23 (b) The owner of any public utility pole, or the owner's agent, shall  
24 deliver written notice of any removal and replacement work concerning  
25 such utility pole to each user of such utility pole not less than seventy-  
26 two hours (1) before the starting date of any such work if such work is  
27 planned, or (2) after such work is completed if such work was  
28 unplanned and necessary to correct a hazardous condition on an  
29 emergency basis. Such notice shall describe the location of the public  
30 utility pole, the nature of the work completed or to be completed, the  
31 date upon which such work was completed or is to be completed and  
32 the date and method of delivery of such notice.

33 (c) Each user of a public utility pole that receives notice of work  
34 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall transfer its equipment  
35 from the existing public utility pole to the replacement public utility  
36 pole not later than fifteen days after receiving such notice. Upon the  
37 completion of the work to transfer equipment pursuant to this  
38 subsection, the user shall provide written notice to the owner of such  
39 utility pole that such work has been completed.

40 (d) If a user fails to complete the work required to transfer the user's  
41 equipment in the time required under subsection (c) of this section, the  
42 owner of the public utility pole, or the owner's agent, may complete  
43 such work on the user's behalf. Such owner or owner's agent may  
44 submit a bill to such user based on the prevailing rate of wages  
45 established pursuant to section 31-53 of the general statutes for any such  
46 work completed on behalf of such user.

47 (e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a user  
48 that fails to transfer the user's equipment to a replacement public utility  
49 pole in compliance with subsection (c) of this section shall be in violation

50 of this section. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may impose,  
51 by order of the authority, a civil penalty not to exceed one hundred  
52 dollars for each violation of subsection (c) of this section, and in the case  
53 of a continued violation, each day thereof shall be deemed a separate  
54 violation. The authority shall impose any such civil penalty in  
55 accordance with the procedure established in section 16-41 of the  
56 general statutes.

57 (2) The authority shall impose no penalty on a user pursuant to this  
58 subsection if (A) the user of a public utility pole was prevented from  
59 completing the transfer of such user's equipment due solely to a  
60 municipality's failure to timely remove or transfer any equipment  
61 owned by such municipality or a political subdivision of the  
62 municipality, or (B) the owner of a public utility pole, or the owner's  
63 agent, completes any work required to transfer such user's equipment  
64 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

65 (f) (1) An electric distribution company or telephone company that  
66 removes a public utility pole, including any portion of such a utility  
67 pole, and installs a replacement public utility pole shall complete the  
68 transfer of any wires or equipment owned by the electric distribution  
69 company or telephone company and the removal of the public utility  
70 pole that was replaced not later than fifteen days after such company  
71 receives notice from each user of such pole that each user has completed  
72 the transfer work required by the user pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
73 section.

74 (2) An electric distribution company or telephone company that fails  
75 to transfer such company's equipment to a replacement public utility  
76 pole, and remove the public utility pole that was replaced, in  
77 compliance with subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be in violation  
78 of this section. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may impose,  
79 by order of the authority, a civil penalty not to exceed one hundred  
80 dollars for each violation of this subsection, and in the case of a  
81 continued violation, each day thereof shall be deemed a separate  
82 violation. The authority shall impose any such civil penalty in

83 accordance with the procedure established in section 16-41 of the  
84 general statutes.

85 (g) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall remit the amount  
86 of any civil penalty collected pursuant to this section or section 2 of this  
87 act to the Commissioner of Social Services for the purpose of providing  
88 funding for the Connecticut energy assistance program administered by  
89 the commissioner pursuant to section 17b-2 of the general statutes.

90 (h) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may adopt regulations,  
91 in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the  
92 provisions of this section and section 2 of this act.

93 Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2026) (a) On and after October 1,  
94 2026, the owner of any public utility pole shall compile and maintain a  
95 list of any double utility poles owned or maintained by such owner or  
96 such owner's agent that have existed for not less than thirty days. Such  
97 owner shall provide such list to the Public Utilities Regulatory  
98 Authority upon the authority's request.

99 (b) Not later than October 1, 2027, the owner of any double utility  
100 poles, or the owner's agent, shall undertake any work necessary to  
101 eliminate such double utility poles. Any owner that fails to eliminate  
102 such double utility poles on or before October 1, 2027, shall be in  
103 violation of this section. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may  
104 impose, by order of the authority, a civil penalty not to exceed one  
105 hundred dollars for each violation of this section, and in the case of a  
106 continued violation, each day thereof shall be deemed a separate  
107 violation. The authority shall impose any such civil penalty in  
108 accordance with the procedure established in section 16-41 of the  
109 general statutes.

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	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(e)(1), a reference to "subsection (b)" was changed to "subsection (c)", for accuracy.

**ET**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*