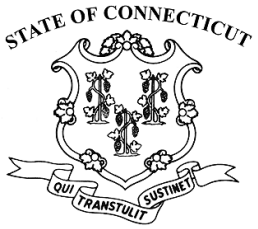

House Bill No. 5340

Public Act No. 26-127

AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE POWER GENERATION.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section and sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act:

(1) "Authority" means the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;

(2) "Class I renewable energy source" has the same meaning as provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

(3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection;

(4) "Distributed energy resource" has the same meaning as provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

(5) "Dwelling unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 47a-1 of the general statutes;

(6) "Energy storage system" has the same meaning as provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

(7) "Shared clean energy facility" means a Class I renewable energy source that (A) emits no pollutants, (B) is served by an electric

distribution company, (C) has a nameplate capacity rating of five megawatts or less, and (D) has at least two subscribers;

(8) "Residential customer" means a customer that resides in a single-family home, a multifamily development consisting of two to four dwelling units or a multifamily development consisting of five or more dwelling units, provided in the case of a multifamily development consisting of five or more such units, (A) not less than sixty per cent of the units of the multifamily development are occupied by persons and families with income that is not more than sixty per cent of the area median income for the municipality in which it is located, as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (B) such multifamily development is determined to be affordable housing by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority according to any alternative metrics designated by the authority; and

(9) "Low-income customer" means a retail end user of an electric distribution company who resides in the state, (A) whose income does not exceed sixty per cent of the state median income, adjusted for family size, or (B) who resides in an affordable housing development, provided the authority may modify the definition of "low-income customer" for the sole purpose of aligning such definition with the requirements of any federal program that provides renewable energy incentives.

(b) On or before August 1, 2026, the authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish a successor program to the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions program established by the authority pursuant to section 16-244z of the general statutes, as amended by this act. In establishing such successor program, the authority shall establish (1) tariffs for each electric distribution company, (2) a rate for such tariffs, and (3) tariff terms and conditions consistent with the requirements of this section. Any such tariff shall be for a term not to exceed twenty years. In such proceeding, the authority shall consider the findings of the study of the value of distributed energy resources

conducted pursuant to section 16a-3o of the general statutes, the recommendations of the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy developed pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes, the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes and the impact of distributed energy resources on the state's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to section 22a-200a of the general statutes. The authority shall issue a final order in such proceeding on or before December 1, 2027.

(c) In establishing rates for tariffs pursuant to this section, the authority shall set such rates based on the electric system benefits received by all ratepayers from the distributed energy resource based on time of production, equitable distribution of participant benefits, the Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes, the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes, the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes and the value or benefits of distributed energy resources to the reliability of the electric grid in the state. The authority shall assess whether to incorporate time-varying rates or other dynamic pricing methods. In addition to a tariff rate applicable to any residential customer, the authority shall authorize a separate tariff rate for (1) low-income customers and residential customers in a multifamily development as described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of this section, and (2) residential customers that reside in a distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-9p of the general statutes.

(d) (1) On and after January 1, 2028, in compliance with the program established under this section, each electric distribution company shall offer tariffs with terms not to exceed twenty years, to any residential customer for the purchase of energy products and renewable energy

certificates generated from a distributed energy resource that (A) emits no pollutants, (B) is located on a customer's premises, and (C) has a nameplate capacity rating of twenty-five kilowatts or less per dwelling unit located on such premises.

(2) Tariffs offered pursuant to this section shall be: (A) For the purchase of any energy at the rate established by the authority pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and any renewable energy certificates generated by such energy resource, on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, and (B) for the purchase of any energy produced and not consumed in a period of time established by the authority, and any renewable energy certificates generated by such renewable energy resource, on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis. A residential customer may not select more than one tariff offered pursuant to this section for the same premises.

(3) Any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be subject to tariff terms, conditions or other stipulations adopted by the authority, including, but not limited to, stipulations regarding the capacity rights of the distributed energy resource.

(e) To be eligible for program participation, a distributed energy resource shall be sized to not exceed the annual load at the customer's individual electric meter or, in the case of a multifamily development described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of this section, the annual load of the premises, from the electric distribution company providing service to such customer, pursuant to any rules established by the authority and as determined by such electric distribution company. For purposes of this section, in the case of a multifamily development consisting of five or more dwelling units, a distributed energy resource shall only qualify for participation in the program if each dwelling unit receives an appropriate share of the benefits from such energy resource and no greater than an appropriate share of the benefits from such energy resource is used to offset any energy usage attributable to a common area in such development. The

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate an uncontested proceeding to implement any distribution of the benefits from the distributed energy resource necessary pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or this subsection.

(f) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of such electric distribution company.

(g) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority shall examine and, at the authority's discretion, incorporate the following into the rate established for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for energy storage systems that provide electric distribution benefits, provided any such incentives take into account incentives received under section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or other ratepayer-funded programs to ensure the incentives received by participants in the aggregate provide benefits to all ratepayers, (2) incentives concerning the location of a distributed energy source on the electric distribution system in a manner that improves the reliability of such system, and (3) other energy policy benefits identified in the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes and to further the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes. Any such incentives or benefits may be adjusted by the authority if such adjustment would enhance electric grid reliability or benefit ratepayers, as determined by the authority.

(h) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the

target for the total aggregate procurement of energy products by electric distribution companies pursuant to this section shall be set by the authority pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of this act.

(i) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any tariffs developed pursuant to this section until December 31, 2035. The authority (1) shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis for such energy, and (2) may establish a monthly charge, effective upon the expiration of the term of any tariff authorized pursuant to this section.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) On or before August 1, 2026, the authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish a successor program to the Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program established pursuant to section 16-244z of the general statutes, as amended by this act. In establishing such successor program, the authority shall establish (1) a procurement plan for the electric distribution companies and resulting tariffs for selected projects pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (2) a price cap on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis concerning any distributed energy resource selected pursuant to this section, and (3) tariff terms and conditions consistent with the requirements of this section. Any such tariff shall be for a term not to exceed twenty years. The rate for such tariffs shall be established by the solicitation pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. In such proceeding, the authority shall consider the findings of the study of the value of distributed energy resources conducted pursuant to section 16a-3o of the general statutes, the recommendations of the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy developed pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes, the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes and the impact of Class I renewable energy sources on the state's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to section

22a-200a of the general statutes. The authority shall issue a final order in such proceeding on or before December 1, 2027.

(b) (1) On and after January 1, 2028, not less than annually, each electric distribution company shall jointly or individually solicit and file with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for its approval one or more projects selected resulting from any procurement issued pursuant to this section that are consistent with the tariffs approved by the authority pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. For any such selected project that is a distributed energy resource that emits no pollutants that (A) is located on a customer's premises, (B) is not more than five megawatts in size, and (C) serves the distribution system of an electric distribution company, each electric distribution company shall offer a tariff (i) for the purchase of all energy and renewable energy certificates generated at a rate consistent with the procurement plan approved by the authority, and (ii) for the purchase of any energy produced and not consumed in a period of time established by the authority, and any renewable energy certificates generated by such renewable energy resource, on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, subject to any tariff terms, conditions or other stipulations of the authority, including, but not limited to, the capacity rights of such source.

(2) Except for a distributed energy resource owned by a state, municipal or agricultural customer, to be eligible for program participation, a distributed energy resource shall be sized to not exceed the annual load at the customer's individual electric meter or a set of electric meters, when such meters are combined for billing purposes, as determined by the authority, provided the entire rooftop space of a customer's premises or owned by a commercial or industrial customer may be used for purposes of electricity generation and participation in the solicitation conducted by each electric distribution company pursuant to this section. For any state, municipal or agricultural customer, the distributed energy resource shall be sized to not exceed

the annual load at such customer's individual electric meter or a set of electric meters at the same customer's premises, when such meters are combined for billing purposes, and the load of up to five state, municipal or agricultural beneficial accounts, as defined in section 16-244u of the general statutes, identified by such state, municipal or agricultural customer, and such state, municipal or agricultural customer may include the load of up to five additional nonstate or municipal beneficial accounts, as defined in section 16-244u of the general statutes, when sizing such energy resource, provided such accounts are critical facilities, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-243y of the general statutes, and are connected to a microgrid.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, state, municipal and agricultural customers shall be exempt from the requirement that generation projects, including colocated energy storage facilities connected with such projects, be located on a customer's premises.

(d) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority shall examine, and incorporate, at the authority's discretion, the following into the rate established for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for energy storage systems that provide electric distribution benefits, provided any such incentives take into account incentives received under section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or other ratepayer-funded programs to ensure the incentives received by participants in the aggregate provide benefits to all ratepayers, (2) incentives concerning the location of a distributed energy source on the electric distribution system in a manner that improves the reliability of such system, (3) preference for the development of distributed energy projects in distressed municipalities, as defined in section 32-9p of the general statutes, and on properties designated as brownfields, as defined in section 32-760 of the general statutes, (4) incentives for the

development of solar canopy projects, and (5) other energy policy benefits identified in the Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes and the Integrated Resources Plan prepared pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and policies in furtherance of the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes. Any such incentives, preferences or benefits may be adjusted by the authority if such adjustment would enhance electric grid reliability or benefit ratepayers, as determined by the authority. The authority shall set the price cap based on the electric system benefits received by all ratepayers from the distributed energy resource, equitable distribution of participant benefits, the Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes, the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes.

(e) The authority shall follow the procedures established pursuant to subsection (g) of section 16-245a of the general statutes for certificates issued by the New England Power Pool Generation Information System for any Class I renewable energy source purchased by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section.

(f) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of such electric distribution company.

(g) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the target for the total aggregate procurement of energy products by electric

distribution companies pursuant to this section shall be set by the authority pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of this act.

(h) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any tariffs developed pursuant to this section until December 31, 2035. The authority (1) shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis at the same rate as the wholesale rate for energy, and (2) may establish a monthly charge, effective upon the expiration of the term of any tariff authorized pursuant to this section.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) On or before August 1, 2026, the authority shall initiate a proceeding to establish the Community Solar Program, which shall be the successor to the shared clean energy facility program established pursuant to section 16-244z of the general statutes, as amended by this act. In establishing such successor program, the authority shall establish (1) a procurement plan for the electric distribution companies and resulting tariffs for selected projects pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (2) a price cap on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis concerning any shared clean energy facility selected pursuant to this section, and (3) tariff terms and conditions consistent with the requirements of this section. Any such tariff shall be for a term not to exceed twenty years. The rate for such tariffs shall be established by the solicitation pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The authority shall issue a final order in such proceeding on or before December 1, 2027.

(b) The Community Solar Program requirements shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(1) The authority shall allow cost-effective shared clean energy facility projects of various nameplate capacities, and may allow for the construction of multiple such projects in the service area of each electric distribution company that operates within the state.

(2) The authority shall determine the billing credit for any subscriber of a shared clean energy facility that may be issued through the electric distribution companies' monthly billing systems and establish consumer protections for subscribers and potential subscribers of such a facility, including, but not limited to, disclosures to be made when selling or reselling a subscription.

(3) Such program shall utilize one or more tariff mechanisms with the electric distribution companies for a term not to exceed twenty years, subject to approval by the authority, to pay for the purchase of any energy products and renewable energy certificates produced by any eligible shared clean energy facility, or to deliver any billing credit of any such facility.

(4) The authority shall limit subscribers of a shared clean energy facility to low-income customers, and may give priority in program participation to any low-income customer who has an arrearage with such customer's electric distribution company. The authority may create incentives or other financing mechanisms to encourage participation by low-income customers.

(5) The authority shall require that each electric distribution company submit a plan for the authority's approval concerning the enrollment of subscribers to any shared clean energy facility in tariffs offered by the electric distribution company. Such plans may include provisions for automatically enrolling certain customers and opt-out provisions for any such customers.

(c) On and after January 1, 2028, not less than annually, each electric distribution company shall jointly or individually solicit and file with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for its approval one or more projects selected resulting from any procurement issued pursuant to this section that are consistent with the tariffs approved by the authority pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section. For any such selected

project, the electric distribution company shall offer a tariff for subscribers of a shared clean energy facility consistent with the program requirements adopted by the authority. In establishing a price cap for tariffs pursuant to this section, the authority shall set the price cap based on the electric system benefits received by all ratepayers from the Class I renewable energy source, equitable distribution of participant benefits, the Comprehensive Energy Strategy adopted pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes, the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes.

(d) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority shall examine, and incorporate, at the authority's discretion, the following into the rate established for any such tariff: (1) Incentives for energy storage systems that provide electric distribution benefits, provided any such incentives take into account incentives received under section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or other ratepayer-funded programs to ensure the incentives received by participants in the aggregate provide benefits to all ratepayers, (2) incentives concerning the location of a distributed energy source on the electric distribution system in a manner that improves the reliability of such system, (3) preference for the development of distributed energy projects in distressed municipalities, as defined in section 32-9p of the general statutes, and on properties designated as brownfields, as defined in section 32-760 of the general statutes, (4) incentives for the development of solar canopy projects, and (5) other energy policy benefits identified in the Integrated Resources Plan developed pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes and to further the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes. Any such incentives, preferences or benefits may be adjusted by the authority if such

adjustment would enhance electric grid reliability or benefit ratepayers, as determined by the authority.

(e) The costs prudently and reasonably incurred by an electric distribution company pursuant to this section shall be recovered on a timely basis through a nonbypassable fully reconciling component of electric rates for all customers of the electric distribution company. Any net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with any tariff offered pursuant to this section shall be credited to customers through the same fully reconciling rate component for all customers of such electric distribution company.

(f) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the target for the total aggregate procurement of energy products by electric distribution companies pursuant to this section shall be set by the authority pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of this act.

(g) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any tariffs developed pursuant to this section until December 31, 2035. The authority shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis at the same rate as the wholesale rate for energy at the expiration of any tariff terms authorized pursuant to this section. The authority may allow subscriptions to continue beyond the tariff term established by the authority.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2028, the target for the total aggregate procurement of energy products by electric distribution companies shall be (1) one hundred eighty megawatts per year for programs established pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act, and (2) an aggregated total of eighty-five million dollars per year for programs established pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, accounting for the compensation for energy, renewable energy certificates, energy

products or any combination thereof received by a participant. If the target goals specified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection cannot be reconciled in any given year, the budgetary goal specified in said subdivision (2) shall be given precedence by the authority. The authority shall, within the budgetary and megawatt targets established pursuant to this subsection, adopt an allocation methodology that promotes the goal of reaching five hundred eighty megawatts of energy storage deployed in the state pursuant to the provisions of section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, not later than December 31, 2031. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if the authority determines incentives associated with a solar photovoltaic system used in combination with an energy storage system provides benefits to all ratepayers in the state, as determined by a ratepayer impact measurement test developed by the authority, any such solar photovoltaic system used in combination with an energy storage system, where both such systems are located on a residential customer's premises, shall not be counted by the authority toward the megawatt procurement or budgetary targets set forth in this subsection.

(b) On or before January 1, 2028, the authority shall establish an initial allocation of megawatts procured and budget expenditure on an annual basis for the programs established pursuant to section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act in a manner that achieves the greatest benefits for all ratepayers, furthers the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes and provides for an equitable distribution, as determined by the authority, of benefits to program participants. The authority may adjust the allocation of incentives, as needed, to achieve the goals of this section.

(c) If the actual budget expenditure for the programs established pursuant to section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act deviates from the target set

forth in subsection (a) of this section, the authority may, in the authority's discretion, revise the budget target for the following year by not more than five per cent of such target.

(d) On or before January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter through January 1, 2035, the authority shall review the performance of each program established pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and determine the annual allocation of such target procurements applicable to each such program in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section. The authority shall adopt a notice procedure concerning any adjustments in allocations or incentives under such programs that is designed to minimize potential disruption in program enrollment.

(e) On and after January 1, 2028, the authority shall direct the electric distribution companies to report to the authority, in a form, frequency and manner prescribed by the authority, any procurement during the reporting period established by the authority.

(f) On and after January 1, 2028, not less than quarterly, for the purpose of assessing progress toward the annual procurement target set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, the authority shall publish on the authority's Internet web site the total amount of megawatts procured pursuant to each program established pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act in the previous quarter.

(g) The authority shall develop and implement a methodology for monitoring the utilization and effectiveness of any procurements authorized pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(h) On or before January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter until January 1, 2036, the authority shall submit a report, in accordance with

the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, concerning the authority's analysis of program effectiveness and any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, an analysis of: (1) The number of megawatts and individual projects participating in each program under the budget target established in subsection (a) of this section within each territory of each electric distribution company; (2) the total annual budget spend, accounting for the entire incentive for energy, renewable energy certificates, energy products or any combination thereof received by the participant, including the credit received by shared clean energy facility associated subscribers pursuant to section 3 of this act; (3) the ratepayer impact of these programs on nonparticipants; (4) whether the programs authorized pursuant to sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act and section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (A) remained within the budget target established in subsection (a) of this section, and (B) advanced the energy storage megawatt deployment goal established in said subsection (a), and, if not, any recommended legislative changes to maintain cost certainty for such programs; and (5) whether and how the projects participating in each program further the system efficiency and utilization goal established pursuant to section 16a-3v of the general statutes.

Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 16-244z of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(c) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, for procurement and tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2025, the total megawatts available to customers eligible under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed one hundred megawatts per year and the total megawatts available to customers eligible under subparagraph (B) of subdivision

(2) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed fifty megawatts per year. The authority shall monitor the competitiveness of any procurements authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and may adjust the annual purchase amount established in this subsection or other procurement parameters to maintain competitiveness. Any megawatts not allocated in any given year shall roll into the next year's available megawatts. The obligation to purchase energy and renewable energy certificates shall be apportioned as determined by the authority.

(B) For procurement and tariff years commencing on and after January 1, 2025, the authority may exceed the limits on total available megawatts described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision for any procurement and tariff program authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in any such year, if, during the period commencing on January first and ending on the date that the last project is selected pursuant to the usual procurement process for such program, as determined by the authority, the aggregate dollar amount of procurements of energy and renewable energy credits over the tariff term for all selected projects does not exceed the aggregate dollar amount of procurements of energy and renewable energy credits over the tariff term for all projects selected in such program during the calendar year 2024. The authority shall determine the manner of exceeding such limits.

(C) **[**(i)**]** The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any tariffs developed pursuant to **[**subparagraph (B) of**]** subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section **[**for six years, inclusive of previous years of such procurement and tariff program. The sixth and final year of such procurement and tariff program shall be the calendar year 2027**]** until December 31, 2028, or until the authority has issued an order to the electric distribution companies to offer tariffs pursuant to a successor program approved by the authority, whichever is sooner.

[(ii) The electric distribution companies shall continue to offer any

tariffs developed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section for eight years, inclusive of previous years of such procurement and tariff program. The eighth and final year of such procurement and tariff program shall be the calendar year 2027.**]**

(D) The electric distribution companies shall offer any tariffs developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section **[**for six years**]** until December 31, 2028, or until the authority has issued an order to the electric distribution companies to offer tariffs pursuant to a successor program approved by the authority, whichever is sooner. At the end of the tariff term pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, residential customers that elected the option pursuant to said subparagraph shall be credited all cents-per-kilowatt-hour charges pursuant to the tariff rate for such customer for energy produced by the Class I renewable energy source against any energy that is consumed in real time by such residential customer.

(E) The authority (i) shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis, and (ii) may establish a monthly charge, effective at the expiration of the term of any tariff **[**terms**]** authorized pursuant to this section.

(2) The department, in consultation with the authority, shall assess the tariff offerings pursuant to this section and determine if such offerings are competitive compared to the cost of the technologies and shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, the results of such determination to the General Assembly not later than January 15, 2027.

(3) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority shall examine how to incorporate the following energy system benefits into the rate established for any such tariff: (A) Energy storage systems that provide electric distribution benefits, (B) location of a facility on the distribution system, (C) time-of-use rates or other dynamic pricing, and (D) other energy policy benefits identified in the Comprehensive Energy

Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d.

Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 16-243ee of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) On or before January 1, 2022, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a proceeding to develop and implement one or more programs, and associated funding mechanisms, for electric energy storage resources connected to the electric distribution system. The authority shall establish (1) one or more programs for the residential class of electric customers, and (2) one or more programs for commercial and industrial classes of electric customers. The authority shall solicit input from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Green Bank, the electric distribution companies and the Office of Consumer Counsel in developing such programs. Any program established by the authority pursuant to this section shall terminate on December 31, 2035.

Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Connecticut Green Bank shall, within available resources, establish and administer a pilot incentive program for residential solar customers who have participated in any program established pursuant to the provisions of section 16-245ff of the general statutes or section 16-244z of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the purpose of promoting the deployment of energy storage systems, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, in residential use. The total expenditures under the pilot incentive program established pursuant to this section shall not exceed two million dollars. The program shall be designed to (1) increase the understanding of electric system benefits received by all ratepayers in the state from such programs, (2) offset costs to ratepayers associated with the provision of credits for any electricity generated from a Class I renewable energy source pursuant to section 16-243h of the general statutes by encouraging the storage of such electricity behind a

customer's meter for use by such customer, (3) provide for the installation of such energy storage systems at no cost to a program participant, and (4) give preference in program participation to any household located in an environmental justice community, as defined in section 22a-20 of the general statutes. The Connecticut Green Bank may enter into an agreement with any contractor licensed in the state to install such energy storage systems pursuant to program guidelines adopted by the Connecticut Green Bank.

(b) On or before February 1, 2028, the Connecticut Green Bank shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and the environment, analyzing the impact of the program and recommending whether to establish a permanent program in the state and, if so, any legislation necessary to implement such program. The pilot program shall terminate on February 1, 2028, or upon the submission of the report required pursuant to this subsection, whichever is sooner.

Sec. 8. (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Upon the termination of the pilot program set forth in section 7 of this act, a working group shall be convened to examine the results of the pilot program, including an analysis of the benefits of the pilot program to all ratepayers in the state, and make recommendations concerning a successor program to the energy storage program established pursuant to section 16-243ee of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology;

(2) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or

the commissioner's designee;

(3) The Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee;

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

(5) The chief executive officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief executive officer's designee; and

(6) Any individuals the chairpersons deem relevant and necessary to carry out the duties of the working group.

(c) The chairpersons of the working group shall be the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the termination of the pilot program established pursuant to section 7 of this act.

(d) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology shall serve as the administrative staff of the working group.

(e) Not later than one year after the working group is convened, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or one year after the working group is convened, whichever is later.

Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, "portable solar generation device" means a solar photovoltaic

generation device that (1) is not permanently affixed to a structure, (2) has a maximum power output of not more than one thousand two hundred watts, (3) is designed to be connected to a building's electrical system through a standard one hundred twenty volt alternating current outlet located behind a customer's electric meter, (4) is intended primarily to offset part of the customer's electricity consumption, (5) meets the requirements of the State Building Code, (6) meets the requirements of the National Electric Code (NFPA-70) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE 1547), (7) is certified by Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory, and meets the requirements set forth in Underwriters Laboratories Standard Number 1741, as amended from time to time, (8) includes a device or feature that prevents the system from energizing the building's electrical system during a power outage, and (9) includes a warning for consumers stating that any generation from such unit that exceeds the consumption of electricity at the customer's location will result in such excess generation being charged to the customer as usage unless such customer utilizes an electric meter that allows for net metering.

(b) A portable solar generation device that meets the requirements of this section shall be exempt from any requirement concerning interconnection agreements imposed by any regulation adopted by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or any decision of the authority, provided not more than one such device may be used behind a customer's electric meter. Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt any portable solar generation device from any applicable provision of the State Building Code, the Fire Safety Code, the State Fire Prevention Code or any provision of any local ordinance or regulation applicable to such devices.

(c) No electric distribution company shall (1) require a customer using a portable solar generation device to obtain the company's

approval before installing or using the system, pay any fee or charge related to the system, except any charges the system incurs through its use, or install any additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the system, provided not more than one such device may be used behind a customer's electric meter, or (2) be liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device.

Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall, jointly, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in accordance with the provisions of section 29-252b of the general statutes, consider in the amendments to the State Building Code next adopted after the effective date of this section, and the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee shall, in accordance with section 29-292a of the general statutes, consider in the amendments to the State Fire Safety Code next adopted after the effective date of this section, provisions that ensure the safe installation of portable solar generation devices, as defined in subsection (a) of section 9 of this act.

Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, conduct a study of the feasibility of implementing an incentive program for agrivoltaics projects in the state. Such study shall consider the potential benefits and consequences of locating a solar photovoltaic energy generating system on land that is also used for agricultural purposes. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, recommendations concerning: (1) Nameplate capacity restrictions for solar photovoltaic energy generating systems, (2) a requirement that program participation be limited to land in productive agricultural use prior to program participation, (3) the configuration of such systems to preserve agricultural operations, (4) the allowable percentage of a parcel that may be utilized for solar photovoltaic equipment in lieu of an agricultural use, (5) the preservation of core

forest land, as defined in section 16a-3k of the general statutes, (6) a permitting process for such projects, and (7) incentives for such projects. Not later than January 1, 2027, the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, that contains such recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology and the environment.

Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

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

(2) "Minor incident" means any unanticipated or unplanned shutdown of a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes, as amended by this act, that does not require any local emergency services personnel to respond to the site of such facility. "Minor incident" does not include the shutdown of such facility in connection with a preventative safety measure or scheduled or routine maintenance.

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

of such incident.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes, as amended by this act, if such facility is a generating source permitted under Title V of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 or section 22a-174-33a or 22a-174-33b of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies.

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

Sec. 13. Section 16-50*l* of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is amended by adding subsections (i) and (j) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(NEW) (i) In addition to the requirements of this section, the council may, in the council's discretion, require that, as a condition of approval for any facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, as amended by this act, the applicant provide emergency services training specific to the proposed facility, at the applicant's sole expense, to firefighters or other emergency services personnel in any municipality in which such facility shall be located. If the council imposes such a condition pursuant to this subsection, the applicant shall provide notice of the availability of such training to the chief executive officer and fire marshal of any municipality in which such facility shall be located, as ordered by the council. The chief executive officer or fire marshal shall respond in writing to such notice not later than sixty days after the receipt of such notice and indicate whether firefighters or other emergency services personnel in the municipality request such training.

If such training is so requested, the applicant will arrange for such training to be provided not later than sixty days after such request.

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

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

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

contact person.

(4) Any person designated as an emergency contact person pursuant to this subsection shall be available to respond, whether at the facility, by telephonic means or by other electronic equipment, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes, to any emergency at such facility not later than one hour after the occurrence of such emergency. If an emergency contact person fails to timely respond in the event of an emergency at such facility, any firefighter or other emergency services personnel who attempted to contact the emergency contact person shall file a written report with the council detailing such lack of response.

Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than November 1, 2026, the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in consultation with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Siting Council, shall convene a working group within the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for the purpose of reviewing and assessing any processes concerning the resumption of electric generation services after a shutoff of such services at any facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes, as amended by this act, that exceeds five days. Such review and assessment shall consider (1) any existing statutory, regulatory or contractual processes governing the resumption of electric generation services following 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 resumption of service; and (4) any recommendations for statutory, regulatory or procedural changes to improve transparency, coordination and safety upon the resumption of such services.

(b) The working group shall include:

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

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

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

(4) The Consumer Counsel, or the counsel's designee;

(5) A local fire marshal from a municipality in which two or more facilities described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes, as amended by this act, are sited;

(6) One or more representatives from an electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes;

(7) One or more owners or operators of an electric generation facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

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

(9) Any other interested party the chairperson deems appropriate.

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

Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Administrative Services;

(2) "Residential energy storage system" means any commercially available technology that is (A) used to meet the electrical demand for the residential property on which such system is installed, and (B) capable of absorbing energy, storing such energy for a period of time and thereafter dispatching the energy, and that is further capable of: (i) Using mechanical, chemical or thermal processes to store electricity that is generated at one time for use at a later time; (ii) storing thermal energy for direct use for heating or cooling at a later time in a manner that avoids the need to use electricity at a later time; (iii) using mechanical, chemical or thermal processes to store electricity generated from renewable energy sources for use at a later time; or (iv) using mechanical, chemical or thermal processes to capture or harness waste electricity and to store such electricity generated from mechanical processes for delivery at a later time;

(3) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough;

(4) "Residential solar photovoltaic system" means equipment and devices that (A) have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and generating electricity by photovoltaic effect, (B) have a nameplate capacity rating of twenty-five kilowatts or less, and (C) are installed on the roof of a single-family or multifamily home; and

(5) "Smart solar permitting platform" means the Internet-based platform known as SolarAPP+ developed by the National Laboratory of the Rockies within the United States Department of Energy, or a similar Internet-based platform selected by the Commissioner of Administrative Services to automate the review of an application for a building permit to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system or such system in combination with a residential energy storage system.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall implement a smart solar permitting platform for the purpose of (1) automatically reviewing applications to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system or such system in combination with a residential energy storage system, and (2) instantly releasing a building permit to construct such system or systems if such system or systems comply with the Connecticut State Building Code.

(c) The commissioner shall administer the smart solar permitting platform in a manner that allows for the:

(1) Use by the Department of Administrative Services, any municipality, any architect licensed pursuant to chapter 390 of the general statutes, any professional engineer licensed pursuant to chapter 391 of the general statutes and any contractor licensed pursuant to chapter 393 of the general statutes;

(2) Automated evaluation of any application to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system or an energy storage system to determine whether such system complies with the requirements of the Connecticut State Building Code and whether such application complies with the regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section;

(3) Instant release of a building permit for any such application that is determined to comply with the requirements of the Connecticut State Building Code and the regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section after such evaluation;

(4) Processing a permit application for not less than seventy-five per cent of residential rooftop solar photovoltaic systems that (A) weigh less than four pounds per square foot, (B) provide electrical power to detached single and multifamily homes, and (C) comply with Connecticut State Building Code requirements for installation on an existing residential structure;

(5) Users of the platform to submit an application to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system, or such system in combination with a residential energy storage system, twenty-four hours a day, except when the platform is unavailable because of a system upgrade or maintenance;

(6) Use of digital signatures, stamps, seals or certifications on all submitted applications and supporting documents necessary for the issuance of a permit;

(7) Provision of customer service to assist users in navigating the platform; and

(8) Periodic update as necessary to conform with changes to the Connecticut State Building Code or any other applicable state law.

(d) (1) A municipality shall either allow for the submission of applications to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system, or such system in combination with a residential energy storage system, through the smart solar permitting platform adopted by the commissioner or through an alternative automated solar permitting platform that satisfies the requirements set forth in this section in an equivalent manner as the smart solar permitting platform. A municipality may coordinate the selection and implementation of an alternative automated solar permitting platform with the regional council of governments of which such municipality is a member, including the issuance of any request for proposals, invitation to bid or other solicitation concerning the development and implementation of such alternative platform.

(2) Any municipality that elects to implement an alternative automated solar permitting platform shall enable access to the alternative platform not later than January 1, 2029. A municipality that implements an alternative automated solar permitting platform shall

not require an applicant to submit any documentation or information that is not required through the smart solar permitting platform.

(3) A municipality that allows for the submission of residential solar photovoltaic system applications through the smart solar permitting platform shall, not later than January 1, 2029, revise its permitting fee schedule to reflect any reduction in cost or resources expended by the municipality to permit residential solar energy systems.

(e) (1) A municipality that allows for the submission of applications to construct a residential solar photovoltaic system, or such system in combination with a residential energy storage system, through an alternative automated solar permitting platform shall submit a compliance report to the commissioner, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, not later than sixty days after the municipality implements such alternative platform. A local compliance report shall include, but need not be limited to:

(A) The date of compliance by the municipality;

(B) The software used for compliance by the municipality; and

(C) Documentation demonstrating that the alternative automated solar permitting platform implemented by the municipality satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section in an equivalent manner as the platform implemented by the commissioner.

(2) If the commissioner determines that documentation submitted in a local compliance report pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection is insufficient to verify that the alternative platform satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section in an equivalent manner as the platform implemented by the commissioner, the municipality shall provide the commissioner, at the commissioner's request, access to the municipality's alternative platform so that the commissioner may determine whether the alternative platform

complies with said requirements.

(3) The commissioner shall provide public access to any local compliance report submitted by a municipality on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services.

(f) (1) A municipality that implements an alternative automated solar permitting platform pursuant to this section shall, commencing on July 1, 2029, submit an annual report to the commissioner. The commissioner may establish guidelines for annual reports required under this subsection. Each such annual report shall include, but need not be limited to:

(A) The number of permits released by the municipality for residential solar photovoltaic systems through the alternative automated solar permitting platform and the relevant characteristics of such systems;

(B) The number of permits released by the municipality for residential solar photovoltaic systems through means other than the alternative automated solar permitting platform and the relevant characteristics of such systems; and

(C) Documentation demonstrating that the alternative automated solar permitting platform satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section in an equivalent manner as the platform implemented by the commissioner.

(2) If the commissioner determines that documentation submitted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection is insufficient to verify that the alternative automated solar permitting platform meets the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section in an equivalent manner as the platform implemented by the commissioner, the municipality shall provide the commissioner, at the commissioner's request, access to the platform so that the commissioner may determine

whether the alternative platform complies with said requirements.

(3) The commissioner shall provide public access to annual reports submitted by a municipality on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services.

(g) The commissioner shall prescribe the form and format of applications for permits, including supporting documentation, specifications, requirements for digital signatures, stamps, seals or certifications and other information exchanged through the smart solar permitting platform. The commissioner shall require that any application and supporting documents submitted pursuant to this section be prepared and submitted by any architect licensed pursuant to chapter 390 of the general statutes, any professional engineer licensed pursuant to chapter 391 of the general statutes or any contractor licensed pursuant to chapter 393 of the general statutes. The commissioner shall waive any requirement related to physical signatures, stamps, seals, certifications or notarization imposed by statute, regulation or local ordinance in order for the smart solar permitting platform to process permit applications, provided the permit application contains a digital signature, stamp, seal or certification.

(h) A person exchanging information through either the smart solar permitting platform or through an alternative automated solar permitting platform shall not be subject to a licensing sanction, civil penalty, fine, permit disapproval, revocation or other sanction for failure to comply with any statute, regulation or local ordinance that requires submission of such information in physical form, including, but not limited to, any requirement that the information be (1) in a particular form or of a particular size, (2) submitted with multiple copies, (3) physically attached to another document, (4) an original document, or (5) signed, stamped, sealed, certified or notarized.

Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Connecticut Siting Council shall

not approve a declaratory ruling for a solar photovoltaic facility under section 16-50k of the general statutes or grant a certificate for a facility described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes, as amended by this act, that is a solar photovoltaic facility if the council finds that such facility is located in a municipality in which greater than (1) five and one-half per cent of the total land area of such municipality, or (2) two per cent of the total land area of such municipality, if such municipality is contiguous with, and to the north of, a town described by subdivision (1) of this subsection, excluding solar installations approved by the council on any brownfield, as defined in section 32-760 of the general statutes, or any landfill, contains solar photovoltaic installations and related solar infrastructure, calculated by total parcel size, previously approved by the council.

(b) To calculate the percentage of land area covered by such solar facilities pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the total parcel size of such installations and related infrastructure in such municipality, as determined by the computer-assisted mass appraisal system maintained by the Geographic Information Systems Office within the Office of Policy and Management, shall be divided by the total acreage of the municipality. The prohibition on the council's ability to approve a declaratory ruling or grant a certificate for a facility proposed in such municipality shall expire on July 1, 2027, and shall not apply to facilities proposed to be sited on land zoned for commercial or industrial use by the municipality as of January 1, 2024.

(c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the chairperson of the Connecticut Siting Council, the president of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the president of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the executive director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments, the president of the Connecticut State Building Trades

Council, a training director of a registered affiliate of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council, the Secretary of Office of Policy and Management, the chairperson of the Council on Environmental Quality, the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Consumer Counsel, a conservation organization based in Connecticut with expertise in the management of forests and a conservation organization based in Connecticut with expertise in agrivoltaics and farmland soils, shall prepare a report, as described in subsections (d) to (f), inclusive, of this section, recommending specific criteria concerning the equitable distribution of siting solar photovoltaic energy generating systems in the state. Not later than February 1, 2027, the commissioner shall submit such report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, government administration and elections, labor, energy and the environment.

(d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may, within available appropriations, hire a consultant to assist in the preparation of such report, provided such consultant shall not own or operate any facility, as defined in section 16-50i of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(e) The report prepared pursuant to this section shall include evaluations of and recommendations concerning: (1) The location of solar facilities previously approved by the council, with a focus on measuring and explaining the distribution of and concentration of solar facilities across the state; (2) how the council can further minimize conflicts between solar development and other land use priorities, particularly in municipalities with greater concentrations of solar development; (3) an assessment of the effectiveness of Public Act 17-218 at protecting core forest and prime farmland resources in the solar facility siting process; (4) the existence of project labor agreements

between the developers of such solar facilities and the Connecticut State Building Trades Council; (5) the potential economic impacts that solar facility development projects may have, including how many direct and indirect jobs would be created in a community and the surrounding region; (6) how the developer of such projects may demonstrate that contractors and subcontractors have a registered apprenticeship program approved by the state, whose curriculum includes training for solar and other Class I renewable energy source construction; (7) how a developer may attest that contractors and subcontractors have no history of stop work orders, wage violations or licensing violations pending by a federal or state agency, nor have they been cited for any wage or licensing violations by a federal or state agency within the preceding five years; and (8) any policy recommendations resulting from such evaluations.

(f) Not later than November 30, 2026, the commissioner shall post a draft report on the Internet web site of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for public review and comment. Prior to submitting a final report pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the commissioner shall provide for one or more public comment periods and integrate any public comment the commissioner deems appropriate and useful into such final report.

Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 16-50i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) "Facility" means: (1) An electric transmission line of a design capacity of sixty-nine kilovolts or more, including associated equipment but not including a transmission line tap, as defined in subsection (e) of this section; (2) a fuel transmission facility, except a gas transmission line having a design capability of less than two hundred pounds per square inch gauge pressure or having a design capacity of less than twenty per cent of its specified minimum yield strength; (3) any electric

generating or storage facility using any fuel, including nuclear materials, including associated equipment for furnishing electricity but not including an emergency generating device, as defined in subsection (f) of this section or a facility (A) owned and operated by a private power producer, as defined in section 16-243b, (B) which is a qualifying small power production facility or a qualifying cogeneration facility under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended, or a facility determined by the council to be primarily for a producer's own use, and (C) which has, in the case of a facility utilizing renewable energy sources, a generating capacity of one megawatt of electricity or less and, in the case of a facility utilizing cogeneration technology, a generating capacity of twenty-five megawatts of electricity or less; (4) any electric substation or switchyard designed to change or regulate the voltage of electricity at sixty-nine kilovolts or more or to connect two or more electric circuits at such voltage, which substation or switchyard may have a substantial adverse environmental effect, as determined by the council established under section 16-50j, and other facilities which may have a substantial adverse environmental effect as the council may, by regulation, prescribe; (5) such community antenna television towers and head-end structures, including associated equipment, which may have a substantial adverse environmental effect, as said council shall, by regulation, prescribe; **[**and**]** (6) such telecommunication towers, including associated telecommunications equipment, owned or operated by the state, a public service company or a certified telecommunications provider or used in a cellular system, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 47, Part 22, as amended, which may have a substantial adverse environmental effect, as said council shall, by regulation, prescribe; and (7) (A) an electric transmission line and any associated equipment described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, or (B) any electric substation or switchyard or other facility described in subdivision (4) of this subsection, including a combination of the facilities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision, that is either an expansion of an existing facility or the

installation of a new facility, and that is designed to (i) accommodate the interconnection of one or more future sources of generation of any type that is not yet the subject of an interconnection agreement, or (ii) relieve transmission system constraints in order to facilitate delivery of power from such future sources of generation;

Sec. 18. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 16-50p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(3) For purposes of this section, a public benefit exists when a facility is necessary for the reliability of the electric power supply of the state or for the development of a competitive market for electricity and a public need exists when a facility is necessary for the reliability of the electric power supply of the state. With respect to a facility described in subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, as amended by this act, in determining that a public need exists pursuant to this subdivision, the council shall consider whether such facility addresses anticipated future electric grid reliability needs, including the need for additional generation on the electric grid to maintain future resource adequacy. Any future reliability needs identified in the council's determination of public need for a facility described in subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, as amended by this act, shall be supported by (A) any study or finding of the regional independent system operator, as defined in section 16-1, (B) the Integrated Resources Plan approved pursuant to section 16a-3a, or (C) through an advisory opinion by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection stating that such facility is in the best interest of ratepayers in the state that is submitted in the relevant proceeding of the siting council. Such an advisory opinion may, without limitation, be based on the availability of funding from sources other than ratepayers in the state, the collaborative efforts of with one or more other states that will provide a net benefit to ratepayers in the state, or whether the proposed

project shall eliminate, or otherwise limit, the need for other upgrades to the transmission system that would be a cost to ratepayers in the state.

Sec. 19. Section 16-243hh of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Not later than January 1, 2025, each gas company, as defined in section 16-1, shall institute a program to provide a rebate to any customers of such company that use natural gas for a shared clean energy facility, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 16-244z, that was selected in a solicitation pursuant to said subsection. **[**on or before December 31, 2023.**]** The amount of such rebate shall equal the retail delivery charge that such company charges such customer for transporting natural gas to such shared clean energy facility. Such company may recover the costs of providing such rebates through such company's decoupling mechanism pursuant to section 16-19tt. The authority may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 4, 2026