



House Bill No. 5331

Special Act No. 26-33

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE AIR PERMITS OF CERTAIN
CREMATORIES.**

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall establish a working group to evaluate mercury vapor emissions and fine particulate matter emissions factors associated with crematories used for human remains and to develop recommendations for the use of such emissions factors in the review of permit applications, registrations and other approvals issued pursuant to section 22a-174 of the general statutes.

(b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, shall convene the working group not later than June 15, 2026, which may include the following members, as appointed by the commissioner: (1) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (2) a representative of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association, as designated by such association; (3) a representative of crematory operators in the state, as designated by the commissioner in conjunction with the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association; (4) a representative from the Cremation Association of North America, as designated by the commissioner in conjunction with the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association; (5) a representative from

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a crematory equipment supplier or manufacturer, as designated by the commissioner in conjunction with the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association; (6) a representative of a municipality with a crematory located in the jurisdiction subject to permitting under section 22a-174 of the general statutes; (7) a representative of an environmental organization with expertise in air quality; (8) an individual with expertise in mercury emissions, emissions modeling or atmospheric science from an institution of higher education; and (9) any other person, as deemed necessary by the commissioner, to fulfill the purposes of this section.

(c) In undertaking its work for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this section, the working group shall: (1) Review the requirements of section 22a-174 of the general statutes and any regulations adopted pursuant to said section, including section 22a-174-3a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as such requirements apply to crematories; (2) review federal regulations and guidance, including from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and any other state or local jurisdiction in the United States concerning mercury emissions from crematories; (3) evaluate available data, emissions factors and methodologies used to estimate mercury vapor emissions and fine particulate matter emissions from the cremation of human remains; (4) assess variability in mercury vapor emissions, including, but not limited to, variability attributable to dental amalgam, operating practices and emissions control technologies; (5) identify best available practices and technologies for minimizing mercury vapor emissions and fine particulate matter emissions from crematories; (6) evaluate the manner in which emissions factors are used by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in implementing section 22a-174 of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, in permit application review and establishment of new setback guidelines for currently permitted crematories and whether updated factors are

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warranted; and (7) develop recommendations for mercury vapor emissions factors and fine particulate matter emissions factors and related guidance to be used by the department in carrying out its responsibilities under section 22a-174 of the general statutes.

(d) Not later than January 15, 2027, the working group shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment. Such report shall include the findings and recommendations of the working group, including any legislative recommendations.

(e) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall provide administrative staff support to the working group.

(f) The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits the report required pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or January 15, 2027, whichever is later.

Governor's Action:

Approved June 4, 2026