
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 319

AN ACT CONCERNING BATTERY-POWERED LAWN EQUIPMENT FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES, REGIONAL SCHOOLS AND COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Connecticut Green Bank, by January 31, 2028, to create a loan program or loan products to help registered commercial landscapers buy or lease battery-operated lawn equipment. The Green Bank must use its existing statutory authority and access to capital, as well as lending partnerships, to create the loan program or products.

The bill also requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to reactivate the 2010 Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund for municipalities and regional school districts. (It appears that in 2010 DEEP used funds from an interstate pollution case settlement to partially reimburse certain municipalities and school districts for replacing their lawn and ground maintenance equipment with versions that emitted less pollutants. It is unclear if the bill's intent is to establish a similar reimbursement program (the 2010 program was not established in law) or to establish a new similar fund, as the original fund no longer exists.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision reactivating the Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund is effective October 1, 2027.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 8 (03/18/2026)