

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5004

February Session, 2024

AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The state hereby declares a 2 climate crisis to demonstrate the urgency for enacting meaningful 3 climate legislation and to support increased efforts to secure federal 4 funds to respond to such crisis. Such crisis threatens the resilience of 5 communities in the state, regardless of zip code, multiple aspects of the 6 state's natural resources and infrastructure assets, the state's economy 7 and the quality of life for younger generations of state residents. 8 Accordingly, the state recognizes the urgency to significantly and 9 rapidly decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase community 10 coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate change. The state 11 recognizes the need and urgency to mitigate climate impacts and 12 prepare for and manage disaster risk from climate change. Such 13 declaration shall not authorize the Governor to utilize the provisions of 14 this section to operate the government of the state through executive 15 order.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, 17 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a docket 18 regarding the future of natural gas use in the state in relation to the 19 provisions of section 22a-200a of the general statutes. Upon completion

of such docket, said authority shall submit a report, in accordance with 20 21 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint 22 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of 23 matters relating to the environment and energy on any 24 recommendations for legislative changes necessary to implement the 25 findings of such docket.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 32-7t of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

29 (3) The commissioner, upon consideration of an application and any additional information, may approve an application in whole or in part 30 31 or may approve an application with amendments, provided the 32 commissioner shall give preference to applications that: (A) Make 33 significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices, including, but not limited to, zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency, 34 35 (B) are in sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, energy 36 efficiency and zero-emission vehicles, or (C) are for farming operations that are sustainable from a climate perspective. If the commissioner 37 38 disapproves an application, the commissioner shall identify the defects 39 in such application and explain the specific reasons for the disapproval. 40 The commissioner shall render a decision on an application not later 41 than ninety days after the date of its receipt by the commissioner.

42 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Revenue 43 Services, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Economic and 44 Community Development, shall identify business fees that are 45 appropriate for waiver for certified B corporations and farms that are 46 environmentally sustainable. Not later than January 1, 2025, the 47 Commissioner of Revenue Services shall submit a list of such fees to the 48 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of 49 matters relating to the environment.

50 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, 51 and annually thereafter, Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated shall 52 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the 53 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General 54 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and 55 energy on investments and assistance provided to companies engaged 56 in matters related to the mitigation of climate change.

57 Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2024) Not later than January 1, 2025, 58 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in 59 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, 60 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General 61 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on 62 recommendations for amendments to section 16a-48 of the general 63 statutes to provide for the sale and installation in the state of heating, 64 ventilation and air conditioning systems, hot water heating systems and 65 geothermal systems that do not emit greenhouse gases. Such 66 recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, suggested 67 implementation dates for any such requirement and proposed 68 consumer education efforts to inform the public about such systems.

69 Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2024) The Commissioner of Energy 70 and Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Connecticut 71 Green Bank, shall develop a plan for the installation, within available 72 resources, of not less than three hundred ten thousand heat pumps for 73 residential heating systems in the state, including, but not limited to, 74 through any program established pursuant to section 8-240a, 16a-40b, 75 16a-40*l* or 16a-46m of the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2026, 76 the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the 77 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing 78 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters 79 relating to the environment and energy on the status of such plan in 80 reaching such goal and any attendant recommendations for expanding 81 or revising such plan.

Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2024,
the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation
with the Department of Administrative Services, shall develop a model

policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalitiesmay voluntarily utilize and implement.

Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 7-536 of the 2024 supplement to the
general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

90 (e) (1) Each municipality may apply to the secretary for project
91 authorization and expense reimbursement of local capital improvement
92 projects.

(2) Notwithstanding the deadlines imposed by this section, each
municipality that has expended funds in the fiscal year ending June 30,
2013, on projects listed in subparagraphs (T) to (X), inclusive, of
subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section may apply to the
secretary for reimbursement of such expenses.

98 (3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of 99 subsection (f) of this section, the secretary, at the secretary's discretion, 100 may authorize expense reimbursement for a project listed in 101 subparagraphs (T) to (Y), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) 102 of this section prior to such project's inclusion on the local capital 103 improvement plan adopted by a municipality. The secretary may 104 require certification from the municipality that such municipality is 105 taking steps to amend its local capital improvement plan to include such 106 project.

(B) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
for the period commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, the
secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any
project listed in subparagraph (Y) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of
this section from funds appropriated to the Office of Policy and
Management for such projects.

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
 for the period commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, the
 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any

- 116 municipality that implements the Office of Policy and Management's
- 117 model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing from funds
- 118 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management for such purpose.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	New section
Sec. 2	from passage	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	32-7t(c)(3)
Sec. 4	from passage	New section
Sec. 5	from passage	New section
Sec. 6	October 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 7	October 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 8	from passage	New section
Sec. 9	July 1, 2024	7-536(e)

APP Joint Favorable Subst.