



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5004

LCO No. 2340



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

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*) (a) Each state agency shall have
17 the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals: (1) A forty-five
18 per cent reduction from 2001 levels by 2030; (2) a seventy per cent
19 reduction from 2016 levels by 2040; and (3) achieving a level determined
20 to be net-zero by 2050. For purposes of this subsection, "net-zero" has
21 the same meaning as provided in section 22a-200 of the general statutes,
22 as amended by this act.

23 (b) Each state agency shall have the goal of only utilizing zero-carbon
24 generating electricity by 2030.

25 Sec. 3. Section 22a-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the
26 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

27 As used in sections 22a-200 to 22a-200b, inclusive, as amended by this
28 act, 22a-200d and 4a-67h:

29 (1) "Direct emissions" means emissions from sources that are owned
30 or operated, in whole or in part, by an entity or facility, including, but
31 not limited to, emissions from factory stacks, manufacturing processes
32 and vents, and company owned or leased motor vehicles;

33 (2) "Entity" means a person, as defined in section 22a-2, that owns or
34 operates, in whole or in part, a source of greenhouse gas emissions from
35 a generator of electricity or a commercial or industrial site, which source
36 may include, but not be limited to, a transportation fleet;

37 (3) "Facility" means a building, structure or installation located on any
38 one or more contiguous or adjacent properties of an entity;

39 (4) "Greenhouse gas" means any chemical or physical substance that
40 is emitted into the air and that the Commissioner of Energy and
41 Environmental Protection may reasonably anticipate will cause or
42 contribute to climate change, including, but not limited to, carbon
43 dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons
44 and sulfur hexafluoride;

45 (5) "Indirect emissions" means emissions associated with the

46 consumption of purchased electricity, steam and heating or cooling by
47 an entity or facility;

48 (6) "Carbon sequestration" means the removal of greenhouse gases
49 from the atmosphere through nature-based solutions such as soils,
50 forests, wetlands or working or natural lands and through technological
51 solutions that have the primary purpose of removing greenhouse gases
52 from the atmosphere;

53 (7) "Net-zero" means a level of greenhouse gas reduction marked by
54 the complete offset of any greenhouse gases emitted by any greenhouse
55 gas emission reduction and carbon sequestration.

56 Sec. 4. Section 22a-200a of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

58 (a) The state shall reduce the level of emissions of greenhouse gas:

59 (1) Not later than January 1, 2020, to a level at least ten per cent below
60 the level emitted in 1990;

61 (2) Not later than January 1, 2030, to a level at least forty-five per cent
62 below the level emitted in 2001;

63 (3) Not later than January 1, 2040, to a level at least sixty-five per cent
64 below the level emitted in 2001, including to a level of zero per cent from
65 electricity supplied to electric customers in the state;

66 (4) Not later than January 1, 2050, to [a] an economy-wide net-zero
67 level, taking into account carbon sequestration, provided direct and
68 indirect emissions of greenhouse gases are at least eighty per cent below
69 the level emitted in 2001; and

70 (5) All of the levels referenced in this subsection shall be determined
71 by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

72 (b) On or before January 1, 2010, and biannually thereafter, the state
73 agencies that are members of the Governor's Steering Committee on

74 Climate Change shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of
75 Policy and Management and the Commissioner of Energy and
76 Environmental Protection. The report shall identify existing and
77 proposed activities and improvements to the facilities of such agencies
78 that are designed to meet state agency energy savings goals established
79 by the Governor. The report shall also identify policies and regulations
80 that could be adopted in the near future by such agencies to reduce
81 greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with subsection (a) of this
82 section.

83 (c) (1) Not later than January 1, 2012, and every three years thereafter,
84 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in
85 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
86 and the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change, report, in
87 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
88 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
89 relating to the environment, energy and transportation on the
90 quantifiable emissions reductions achieved pursuant to subsection (a)
91 of this section. The report shall include a schedule of proposed
92 regulations, policies and strategies, including, but not limited to, carbon
93 sequestration, designed to achieve the limits of greenhouse gas
94 emissions imposed by said subsection, an assessment of the latest
95 scientific information and relevant data regarding global climate change
96 and the status of greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts in other
97 states and countries.

98 (2) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
99 enter into an agreement with a consultant for the preparation of a report
100 to be submitted not later than January 1, 2026, to the joint standing
101 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
102 relating to the environment and energy. Such report shall: (A) Contain
103 strategies for achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reductions
104 required in subsection (a) of this section, (B) indicate whether a strategy
105 to achieve such limits should include sector specific emission reduction
106 targets and, if so, in what manner and order of priority such sector
107 specific targets should be implemented, and (C) evaluate the adequacy

108 of the standards contained in section 16-245a. No recommendation
109 contained in such report shall be implemented without the approval of
110 each chamber of the General Assembly.

111 (d) At least one year prior to the effective date of any federally
112 mandated greenhouse cap and trade program including greenhouse gas
113 emissions subject to any state cap and trade requirements adopted
114 pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Energy and
115 Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
116 Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
117 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
118 cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and
119 technology and transportation. Such report shall explain the differences
120 between such federal and state requirements and shall identify any
121 further regulatory or legislative actions needed to achieve consistency
122 with such federal program.

123 (e) The failure to comply with the provisions of subsection (a) of this
124 section shall constitute contributing to the unreasonable pollution or
125 impairment of the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources
126 of the state pursuant to section 22a-16.

127 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 22a-200b of the general statutes is
128 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
129 *passage*):

130 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall,
131 with the advice and assistance of a nonprofit association organized to
132 provide scientific, technical, analytical and policy support to the air
133 quality and climate programs of northeastern states: (1) Not later than
134 December 1, 2009, publish an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions to
135 establish a baseline for such emissions for the state and publish a
136 summary of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies on the
137 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Internet web
138 site, (2) not later than July 1, 2010, publish results of various modeling
139 scenarios concerning greenhouse gas emissions, including, but not

140 limited to, an evaluation of the potential economic and environmental
141 benefits and opportunities for economic growth based on such
142 scenarios, (3) not later than July 1, 2011, analyze greenhouse gas
143 emission reduction strategies and, after an opportunity for public
144 comment, make recommendations on which such strategies will achieve
145 the greenhouse gas emission levels specified in section 22a-200a, as
146 amended by this act, and (4) not later than July 1, 2012, and every three
147 years thereafter, develop, with an opportunity for public comment, a
148 schedule of recommended regulatory actions by relevant agencies,
149 policies and other actions necessary to [show] make reasonable further
150 progress towards achieving the greenhouse gas emission levels
151 specified in section 22a-200a, as amended by this act, to attain the levels
152 specified in said section by the relevant date provided. Such regulatory
153 actions may include carbon sequestration.

154 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Public Utilities Regulatory
155 Authority shall initiate a docket to determine how the state can phase
156 out natural gas use in accordance with the goals of the Global Warming
157 Solutions Act. Not later than January 1, 2026, the authority shall submit
158 a report identifying any recommendations concerning legislative
159 changes necessary to implement such goal to the joint standing
160 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
161 relating to the environment and energy, in accordance with the
162 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

163 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision
164 of the general statutes, each state agency when considering any
165 transportation infrastructure in the state or energy generation planning
166 for the state and issuing any permit, license or administrative approval
167 or decision for such infrastructure or energy generation, including, but
168 not limited to, the execution of grants, loans and contracts, shall
169 consider whether such decisions are inconsistent with or will interfere
170 with the attainment of the state-wide greenhouse gas emissions limits
171 established in section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended by
172 this act. If the issuance of any such permit, license or administrative
173 approval or decision is determined to be inconsistent with such

174 greenhouse gas emissions limits or may interfere with the achievement
175 of such emissions limits, such state agency shall provide a detailed
176 statement of the reasons why such emissions limits may not be achieved
177 and identify greenhouse gas mitigation measures that could be
178 implemented in connection with the issuance of such permit, license or
179 administrative approval or decision.

180 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2025,
181 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall publish
182 on its Internet web site consolidated information on the cost and sources
183 of electricity in the state and electric vehicle power source information
184 as well as electric vehicle service and supply equipment. Such
185 consolidated information shall additionally include, but not be limited
186 to, information concerning Class I renewable energy deployments in the
187 state, other distributed energy resources in the state, energy storage
188 deployment in the state, the state's electricity and natural gas
189 consumption, heating fuel consumption for the state by type of fuel,
190 information on energy efficiency program participation, federal
191 weatherization program participation information and information on
192 efficiency barrier remediation program participation.

193 Sec. 9. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 32-7t of the 2024
194 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
195 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

196 (3) The commissioner, upon consideration of an application and any
197 additional information, may approve an application in whole or in part
198 or may approve an application with amendments, provided the
199 commissioner shall give preference to applications that: (A) Make
200 significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices,
201 including, but not limited to, zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency,
202 (B) are in sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, energy
203 efficiency and zero-emission vehicles, or (C) are for farming operations
204 that are sustainable from a climate perspective. If the commissioner
205 disapproves an application, the commissioner shall identify the defects
206 in such application and explain the specific reasons for the disapproval.

207 The commissioner shall render a decision on an application not later
208 than ninety days after the date of its receipt by the commissioner.

209 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Revenue
210 Services, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Economic and
211 Community Development, shall identify business fees that are
212 appropriate for waiver for certified B corporations and farms that are
213 environmentally sustainable. Not later than January 1, 2025, the
214 Commissioner of Revenue Services shall submit a list of such fees to the
215 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
216 matters relating to the environment.

217 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
218 Connecticut Clean Economy Council that shall advise on strategies and
219 policies to strengthen the state's climate mitigation, clean energy,
220 resilience and sustainability programs for the purpose of lowering
221 emissions and advancing the state of economic and environmental
222 justice for residents of the state.

223 (b) Such council shall meet not less than quarterly, at dates, times and
224 locations to be established by the cochairpersons of such council. The
225 council shall: (1) Identify opportunities to leverage state and federal
226 funding to scale economic opportunities associated with clean energy,
227 climate and sustainability investments and maximize local economic
228 development benefits from investments needed to meet the climate and
229 sustainability goals of the state, (2) ensure the state's workforce is
230 trained to deliver climate and sustainability solutions and support
231 equitable and diverse participation in climate and sustainability
232 economic development opportunities from both diverse employers and
233 diverse job seekers, (3) work with the Office of Workforce Strategy to
234 increase workforce training in the clean energy sector with a goal of
235 creating opportunities for populations that are underrepresented in the
236 workforce such as residents of environmental justice communities, as
237 defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes, women, minorities
238 and formerly incarcerated persons, (4) develop a plan for transitioning
239 workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs.

240 Such plan shall be submitted, not later than December 1, 2025, to the
241 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
242 of matters relating to the environment, energy and commerce, in
243 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
244 and (5) be consulted by the Governor and the Commissioner of
245 Economic and Community Development on any state-wide economic
246 action plan. The council may form working groups to address workforce
247 development in specific sectors within the fields of clean energy and
248 sustainability.

249 (c) Such council shall be comprised of the following members: (1) The
250 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
251 commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson of the
252 council, (2) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
253 or the commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson
254 of the council, (3) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
255 or the secretary's designee, (4) the Commissioner of Transportation, or
256 the commissioner's designee, (5) the Commissioner of the Office of
257 Workforce Strategy, or the commissioner's designee, (6) a representative
258 from the office of the Governor, (7) the chief executive officer of the
259 Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief executive officer's designee, (8) the
260 chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, or the
261 chief executive officer's designee; and (9) any other member so
262 designated by the cochairpersons. Any member appointed pursuant to
263 subdivision (9) of this subsection shall serve at the pleasure of the
264 cochairpersons of the council.

265 (d) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a
266 quorum.

267 (e) Not later than June 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council
268 shall report on its work, findings and recommendations to the
269 Governor, the Office of Policy and Management and the joint standing
270 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
271 relating to the environment, energy and commerce, in accordance with
272 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

273 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioners of Energy
274 and Environmental Protection, Administrative Services and Economic
275 and Community Development shall establish a pilot program to serve
276 as a new business incubator for zero-carbon startup companies. Priority
277 under such program shall be given to startup companies that help
278 reduce plastic waste through the development of alternative packaging
279 methods, the implementation of a plastics coding system that assists in
280 making the recycling of plastics understandable to consumers or the
281 development of nature-based plastic alternatives. Such pilot program
282 shall utilize a state-owned facility that constitutes surplus state property
283 that no state agency seeks to utilize and shall include entrepreneurial
284 tenant benefits, including, but not limited to, rent-free workspaces for a
285 period of not more than three years. Not later than February 1, 2026, said
286 commissioners shall submit a report on the status of such pilot program,
287 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
288 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
289 cognizance of matters relating to the environment.

290 Sec. 13. Subsection (c) of section 16-244z of the 2024 supplement to
291 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
292 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

293 (c) (1) (A) [The aggregate total megawatts available to all customers
294 utilizing a procurement and tariff offered by electric distribution
295 companies pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be up to
296 eighty-five megawatts in year one and increase by up to an additional
297 one hundred sixty megawatts per year on and after January 1, 2023,
298 provided the] The total megawatts available to customers eligible under
299 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
300 not exceed ten megawatts per year, the total megawatts available to
301 customers eligible under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
302 subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed one hundred megawatts
303 per year and the total megawatts available to customers eligible under
304 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
305 not exceed fifty megawatts per year. The authority shall monitor the
306 competitiveness of any procurements authorized pursuant to

307 subsection (a) of this section and may adjust the annual purchase
308 amount established in this subsection or other procurement parameters
309 to maintain competitiveness. Any megawatts not allocated in any given
310 year shall roll into the next year's available megawatts. The obligation
311 to purchase energy and renewable energy certificates shall be
312 apportioned as determined by the authority. Notwithstanding any
313 provision of this subparagraph, each procurement and tariff program
314 authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may exceed the
315 limits on available megawatts described in this subparagraph, from
316 January 1, 2025, until the date that federal funding available under the
317 Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, P.L. 117-169 to finance or provide tax
318 incentives for projects within such program is exhausted.

319 (B) The electric distribution companies shall offer any tariffs
320 developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for six years. At the
321 end of the tariff term pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of
322 subsection (b) of this section, residential customers that elected the
323 option pursuant to said subparagraph shall be credited all cents-per-
324 kilowatt-hour charges pursuant to the tariff rate for such customer for
325 energy produced by the Class I renewable energy source against any
326 energy that is consumed in real time by such residential customer.

327 (C) The authority shall establish tariffs for the purchase of energy on
328 a cents-per-kilowatt-hour basis at the expiration of any tariff terms
329 authorized pursuant to this section.

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

335 (3) For any tariff established pursuant to this section, the authority
336 shall examine how to incorporate the following energy system benefits
337 into the rate established for any such tariff: (A) Energy storage systems
338 that provide electric distribution benefits, (B) location of a facility on the

339 distribution system, (C) time-of-use rates or other dynamic pricing, and
340 (D) other energy policy benefits identified in the Comprehensive Energy
341 Strategy prepared pursuant to section 16a-3d.

342 Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Public Utilities Regulatory
343 Authority shall expand the energy storage program established by the
344 authority in Docket No. 17-12-03RE03. The authority shall: (1) Increase
345 the cumulative storage deployment target for such program to one
346 thousand megawatts; and (2) increase the size of incentives under the
347 program if it concludes that such increase is reasonable, prudent and
348 provides value to ratepayers.

349 Sec. 15. Section 10-285a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
350 is amended by adding subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

351 (NEW) (l) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for a
352 school building project grant, including, but not limited to, any
353 renovation, for the installation of a renewable energy or energy
354 efficiency project, shall be increased by ten percentage points.

355 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1,
356 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
357 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, shall submit a
358 report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
359 cognizance of matters relating to the environment on recommendations
360 for amendments to section 16a-48 of the general statutes to provide for
361 the sale and installation in the state of heating, ventilation and air
362 conditioning systems and hot water heating systems that do not emit
363 greenhouse gases. Such recommendations shall include, but not be
364 limited to, suggested implementation dates for any such requirement
365 and proposed consumer education efforts to inform the public about
366 such systems.

367 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) The Commissioner of Energy
368 and Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Public Utilities
369 Regulatory Authority and the Connecticut Green Bank, shall develop
370 and implement a plan for the installation of not less than three hundred

371 ten thousand heat pumps for residential heating systems in the state,
372 including, but not limited to, through any program established
373 pursuant to section 8-240a, 16a-40b, 16a-40l or 16a-46m of the general
374 statutes. Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit
375 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
376 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
377 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy on
378 the status of such plan in reaching such goal and any attendant
379 recommendations for expanding or revising such plan.

380 Sec. 18. Subsection (g) of section 8-23 of the general statutes is
381 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
382 *passage*):

383 (g) (1) Any municipal plan of conservation and development
384 scheduled for adoption on or after July 1, 2015, shall identify the general
385 location and extent of any [(1)] (A) areas served by existing sewerage
386 systems, [(2)] (B) areas where sewerage systems are planned, and [(3)]
387 (C) areas where sewers are to be avoided. In identifying such areas, the
388 commission shall consider the provisions of this section and the priority
389 funding area provisions of chapter 297a.

390 (2) Any municipal plan of conservation and development scheduled
391 for adoption on or after July 1, 2024, shall evaluate environmental
392 sustainability and climate resiliency for such municipality.

393 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2024,
394 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall develop a
395 model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing that
396 municipalities may voluntarily utilize and implement.

397 Sec. 20. Subsection (e) of section 7-536 of the 2024 supplement to the
398 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
399 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

400 (e) (1) Each municipality may apply to the secretary for project
401 authorization and expense reimbursement of local capital improvement

402 projects.

403 (2) Notwithstanding the deadlines imposed by this section, each
404 municipality that has expended funds in the fiscal year ending June 30,
405 2013, on projects listed in subparagraphs (T) to (X), inclusive, of
406 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section may apply to the
407 secretary for reimbursement of such expenses.

408 (3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of
409 subsection (f) of this section, the secretary, at the secretary's discretion,
410 may authorize expense reimbursement for a project listed in
411 subparagraphs (T) to (Y), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a)
412 of this section prior to such project's inclusion on the local capital
413 improvement plan adopted by a municipality. The secretary may
414 require certification from the municipality that such municipality is
415 taking steps to amend its local capital improvement plan to include such
416 project.

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

423 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
424 for the period commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, the
425 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any
426 municipality that implements the Office of Policy and Management's
427 model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing from funds
428 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management for such purpose.

429 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding title 4b of the
430 general statutes, any new or existing state building shall either be
431 constructed utilizing electrical systems that are not reliant upon fossil
432 fuels or greenhouse gas emissions for operation or, upon renovation,
433 retrofitted to utilize such electrical systems provided funding is

434 available for such purpose.

435 Sec. 22. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
436 Energy and Environmental Protection shall prepare a report that
437 outlines a proposed plan and program for advancing nature-based
438 solutions in the state that support climate mitigation and adaptation.
439 Such report shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the
440 associated funding needs for such plan, an identification of potential
441 federal, state, or other funding sources and a proposed timeline for
442 implementation of such plan, provided such plan shall be implemented
443 not later than July 1, 2025. Not later than December 31, 2024, the
444 commissioner, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes,
445 shall submit such report to the joint standing committee of the General
446 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment.

447 (b) The nature-based solutions program described in subsection (a)
448 of this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1)
449 Increasing carbon sequestration through increased forest extent,
450 including reforestation, (2) controlling invasive species, (3) growing
451 forests to greater maturity, (4) protecting carbon stocks through the
452 avoided conversion of forests and wetlands to other purposes, (5)
453 restoring coastal habitats, and (6) increasing climate-smart agriculture
454 and soil conservation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while
455 improving habitat and protecting biodiversity.

456 (c) The nature-based solutions program described in subsection (a) of
457 this section may include, but shall not be limited to, the following: (1)
458 Acquisition of land and conservation easements to provide upslope
459 advancement zones adjacent to tidal marshes, (2) a comprehensive
460 modeling assessment of the extent of inland migration of tidal marshes
461 needed to inform adaptation decisions, (3) the acquisition of land and
462 conservation easements in riparian areas adjacent to cold water streams,
463 (4) the adoption or amendment of regulations, in accordance with
464 chapter 54 of the general statutes, that provide stream flow levels
465 necessary to ensure the resilience and ecological integrity of cold water
466 streams, (5) increasing active management of upland forests to improve

467 regeneration, diversity and resilience, (6) collaborating with other
 468 northeast states and federal agencies to develop a coordinated regional
 469 adaptation approach for the conservation of habitats and species at risk,
 470 and (7) advancing connectivity among habitats.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200a
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200b(a)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	32-7t(c)(3)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	16-244z(c)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-285a(l)
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	8-23(g)
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	7-536(e)
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement certain measures relating to climate change including advancing and implementing the state's goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the phasing out of the use of natural gas, investment in renewable energy and green economy startup businesses, incentivizing sustainable purchasing by local governments and the enhancement of nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

