



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6412

January Session, 2021



AN ACT CONCERNING A LOW-CARBON FUEL BLEND OF HEATING OIL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BIOHEAT ADVISORY BOARD.

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

1 Section 1. Section 16a-21b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Heating oil" means heating fuel that meets the American Society
5 of Testing Materials or "ASTM" standard D396 or the "ASTM" standard
6 D6751;

7 (2) ["Biodiesel blend" means a fuel comprised of mono-alkyl esters of
8 long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats that
9 meets the most recent version of ASTM International designation
10 D6751;] "Low-carbon fuel blend" means a fuel meeting the standards for
11 advanced biofuels under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard Program,
12 requiring a fifty per cent reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas
13 emissions, including, but not limited to, qualifying biodiesel meeting
14 the most recent version of ASTM International designation D6751;

15 (3) "Sold" means the wholesale sale made to a retailer or the retail sale
16 made to an end-user consumer; and

17 (4) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
18 Protection, or the commissioner's designee. [; and]

19 [(5) "Sufficient in-state production of biodiesel" means fifty per cent
20 of the annual mandated volume of biodiesel, as determined by the most
21 recent data available from the Energy Information Administration of the
22 United States Department of Energy, is available from in-state
23 producers based upon the combined nameplate capacity of such
24 producers.]

25 (b) [(1)] Subject to the provisions of [subdivision (2) of this subsection
26 and subsections (d) and (f)] subsection (e) of this section, [(A)] (1) not
27 later than July 1, [2011] 2022, all heating oil sold in this state shall be a
28 [biodiesel blend] low-carbon fuel blend containing not less than [two]
29 five per cent biodiesel, [(B)] (2) not later than July 1, [2012] 2025, all
30 heating oil sold in this state shall be a [biodiesel blend] low-carbon fuel
31 blend containing not less than [five] ten per cent biodiesel, [(C)] (3) not
32 later than July 1, [2015] 2030, all heating oil sold in this state shall be a
33 [biodiesel blend] low-carbon fuel blend containing not less than [ten]
34 fifteen per cent biodiesel, [(D)] (4) not later than July 1, [2017] 2034, all
35 heating oil sold in this state shall be a [biodiesel blend] low-carbon fuel
36 blend containing not less than [fifteen] twenty per cent biodiesel, and
37 [(E)] (5) not later than July 1, [2020] 2035, all heating oil sold in this state
38 shall be a [biodiesel blend] low-carbon fuel blend containing not less
39 than [twenty] fifty per cent biodiesel.

40 [(2) The provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of
41 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not take effect until the states of
42 New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island each have adopted
43 requirements that are substantially similar to the provisions of
44 subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this
45 subsection.]

46 (c) Unless the commissioner issues a waiver pursuant to subsection
47 [(f)] (e) of this section, any [biodiesel] low-carbon fuel blended with
48 heating oil shall be produced in accordance with industry-accepted

49 quality control standards. A certificate of analysis that verifies
50 conformity with the critical specifications of designation D6751 of
51 ASTM International, as defined by the National Biodiesel Accreditation
52 Program, or other applicable ASTM specification for low-carbon fuel
53 blends, shall be provided by the marketers or producers of any such
54 [biodiesel] low-carbon fuel prior to the blending of such [biodiesel] low-
55 carbon fuel with heating oil. The Department of Consumer Protection,
56 within available appropriations, shall verify that [biodiesel] low-carbon
57 fuel offered for sale in this state conforms to the critical specifications of
58 designation D6751 of ASTM International, as defined by the National
59 Biodiesel Accreditation Program for biodiesel, or other applicable
60 ASTM standards for low-carbon fuel blends, and to the [biodiesel] fuel
61 quality compliance protocol currently accepted by the Department of
62 Consumer Protection.

63 [(d) On or before April 1, 2011, and on or before April 1, 2012, the
64 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in consultation with the
65 Distillate Advisory Board established pursuant to subsection (e) of this
66 section, shall, within available appropriations, determine whether there
67 is sufficient in-state production of biodiesel, to comply with the
68 provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection
69 (b) of this section, respectively. If the commissioner determines that such
70 production is not sufficient, the commissioner, in consultation with the
71 board, may delay the implementation date contained in said
72 subparagraph until July 1, 2012, or earlier, and July 1, 2013, or earlier,
73 respectively, provided the commissioner: (1) Not later than three
74 business days after such determination, posts a notice specifying the
75 duration of such delay on the department's Internet web site, and (2) not
76 later than thirty days after such posting, reports, in accordance with the
77 provisions of section 11-4a, the reasons for such delay to the joint
78 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
79 matters relating to the environment, general law and energy and
80 technology.]

81 [(e)] (d) (1) There is established a [Distillate] Bioheat Advisory Board.

82 Such board shall be located in the Department of Consumer Protection
83 and shall consist of the following members appointed by the
84 Commissioner of Consumer Protection: (A) Two representatives of the
85 producers or suppliers of biodiesel in this state, (B) two representatives
86 of the retail heating oil industry in this state, and (C) two representatives
87 of the wholesale distillate supply industry in this state. Each member of
88 the board shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and without
89 compensation. No funds shall be allocated or made available to the
90 board.

91 (2) The board shall advise the commissioner on industry and market
92 [progress in meeting and enabling compliance with the requirements of
93 subsections (b) and (c) of this section] capabilities concerning the
94 blending of home heating oil and identify opportunities for, or barriers
95 to, increasing the low-carbon fuel blend requirements of this section.

96 [(f)] (e) (1) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, upon the
97 receipt of a petition submitted by the [Distillate] Bioheat Advisory
98 Board in compliance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this
99 subsection, shall temporarily waive the requirements of subsections (b)
100 and (c) of this section when: (A) The United States Department of
101 Energy authorizes a release from the Northeast Heating Oil Reserve, (B)
102 there is an inadequate supply of low-sulfur distillate products, [or] (C)
103 there is an inadequate supply of [biodiesel] low-carbon fuel blending
104 stocks or an operational problem that affects the supply of [biodiesel]
105 low-carbon fuel blending stocks, or (D) the cost of low-carbon fuel
106 blends, relative to traditional distillate fuels, is such that achieving the
107 minimum low-carbon fuel blends required by this section materially
108 increases, on an annual basis, the heating fuel cost for consumers. Any
109 such waiver shall be for a period of not less than thirty days and not
110 more than forty-five days, provided such waiver may be renewed after
111 the expiration of such period of time.

112 (2) Any petition from the [Distillate] Bioheat Advisory Board that
113 requests a waiver of any requirement of subsection (b) or (c) of this
114 section shall include, at a minimum: (A) A statement of the immediate

115 threat to the health and safety of the citizens of this state posed by the
116 inadequate supply of low-sulfur distillate products, [biodiesel] low-
117 carbon fuel blending stocks or operational problems that affect the
118 supply of [biodiesel] low-carbon fuel blending stocks, as applicable, (B)
119 the cause and nature of such inadequate supply or operational problem,
120 as applicable, (C) the expected duration of such inadequate supply or
121 operational problem, and (D) as applicable, a description of any
122 alternative distillate supply that temporarily is needed to take the place
123 of the applicable distillate supply described in subsection (b) or (c) of
124 this section. Not later than three business days after receipt of any such
125 petition, the commissioner shall issue a waiver of the requirements of
126 subsection (b) or (c) of this section, as applicable.

127 [(g)] (f) Not later than February 1, [2012] 2022, and each year
128 thereafter, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in consultation
129 with the [Distillate] Bioheat Advisory Board, shall submit a report, in
130 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
131 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
132 relating to energy and the environment on (1) the status and progress in
133 meeting the requirements of this section, [and on] (2) any effect that such
134 requirements may have on the price or supply of heating oil in this state,
135 and (3) opportunities for, or barriers to, increasing the low-carbon fuel
136 blend requirements of this section.

137 (g) Not later than July 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Consumer
138 Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
139 concerning the requirement of retailers of heating oil to disclose the
140 percentage of low-carbon fuel blend contained in the home heating oil
141 delivered to consumers or an approximate range of such percentage.

142 Sec. 2. Section 16a-3d of the general statutes is amended by adding
143 subsection (e) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

144 (NEW) (e) For the Comprehensive Energy Strategy next approved
145 after October 1, 2021, and every Comprehensive Energy Strategy
146 prepared thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental

