



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 300***

LCO No. 2151



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:  
(ET)

***AN ACT CONCERNING NATURAL GAS CAPACITY AND THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy and  
2 Environmental Protection shall study natural gas capacity in the state.  
3 Such study shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) An evaluation  
4 of natural gas capacity in the state; and (2) an examination of ways to  
5 expand natural gas capacity, including any necessary regulatory or  
6 legislative changes. Not later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner  
7 shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
8 general statutes, the results of the study, including any  
9 recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the General  
10 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and  
11 technology.

12 Sec. 2. Subdivision (20) of subsection (a) of section 16-1 of the 2024  
13 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
14 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

15 (20) "Class I renewable energy source" means (A) electricity derived

16 from (i) solar power, (ii) wind power, (iii) a fuel cell, (iv) geothermal, (v)  
17 landfill methane gas, anaerobic digestion or other biogas derived from  
18 biological sources, (vi) thermal electric direct energy conversion from a  
19 certified Class I renewable energy source, (vii) ocean thermal power,  
20 (viii) wave or tidal power, (ix) low emission advanced renewable energy  
21 conversion technologies, including, but not limited to, zero emission  
22 low grade heat power generation systems based on organic oil free  
23 rankine, kalina or other similar nonsteam cycles that use waste heat  
24 from an industrial or commercial process that does not generate  
25 electricity, (x) [(I) a run-of-the-river] hydropower, [facility that began  
26 operation after July 1, 2003, has a generating capacity of not more than  
27 sixty megawatts, is not based on a new dam or a dam identified by the  
28 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection as a candidate  
29 for removal, and meets applicable state and federal requirements,  
30 including state dam safety requirements and applicable site-specific  
31 standards for water quality and fish passage, or (II) a run-of-the-river  
32 hydropower facility that received a new license after January 1, 2018,  
33 under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rules pursuant to 18  
34 CFR 16, as amended from time to time, is not based on a new dam or a  
35 dam identified by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
36 Protection as a candidate for removal, and meets applicable state and  
37 federal requirements, including state dam safety requirements and  
38 applicable site-specific standards for water quality and fish passage,]  
39 (xi) a biomass facility that uses sustainable biomass fuel and has an  
40 average emission rate of equal to or less than .075 pounds of nitrogen  
41 oxides per million BTU of heat input for the previous calendar quarter,  
42 except that energy derived from a biomass facility with a capacity of less  
43 than five hundred kilowatts that began construction before July 1, 2003,  
44 may be considered a Class I renewable energy source, or (xii) a nuclear  
45 power generating facility, [constructed on or after October 1, 2023,] or  
46 (B) any electrical generation, including distributed generation,  
47 generated from a Class I renewable energy source, provided, on and  
48 after January 1, 2014, any megawatt hours of electricity from a  
49 renewable energy source described under this subparagraph that are  
50 claimed or counted by a load-serving entity, province or state toward

51 compliance with renewable portfolio standards or renewable energy  
52 policy goals in another province or state, other than the state of  
53 Connecticut, shall not be eligible for compliance with the renewable  
54 portfolio standards established pursuant to section 16-245a;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	16-1(a)(20)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) study expanding natural gas capacity in the state, and (2) adjust the Renewable Portfolio Standard by redefining "Class I renewable energy source" to include all electricity derived from hydropower and nuclear power.

*[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.]*