



**Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut**



Proposed Bill Fact Sheet
2019 Legislative Session

**HOUSE BILL 7151
AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**

Summary of Proposal:

This proposal, based on model legislation being advanced in multiple states, protects Connecticut's businesses and residents from increased energy costs associated with the proposed repeal of federal lighting efficiency standards. It also establishes and updates state energy and water efficiency standards for common household and commercial appliances and products.

Reason for Proposal:

Efficiency standards ensure the products we purchase use less energy and water while equitably preserving quality and affordability. Those standards are based on various sources including ENERGY STAR® and WaterSense specifications that have achieved high market shares, standards developed and adopted by other states, and standards proposed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) prior to 2018.

State-level standards are needed to protect against the current federal administration's effort to repeal or indefinitely delay the implementation of lightbulb efficiency standards and new product standards on appliances such as air compressors, commercial dishwashers, computers, faucets, showerheads, air conditioners, and others, with general support from manufacturers. To simplify implementation for manufacturers, several states are coordinating on a common approach. In our region, Vermont has passed the model bill and Massachusetts has a proposed bill this year.

Significant Impacts:

- If Connecticut does not adopt this bill, federal actions could hamper the state's ability to continue our progress in saving energy and federal rollbacks could undermine Connecticut's investments to transform the lighting market and other product markets. In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued on February 6, 2019, DOE proposed rescinding current plans to expand energy efficiency standards already in effect for standard light bulbs to candelabra, globe-shaped, three-way, and other common bulbs.
- Payback periods range from zero to 3.1 years, with a median payback period of less than one year. The proposal does not require consumers purchase more efficient products, but removes particularly inefficient products from the market, thus protecting residents from

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spending money on energy waste. This is an especially effective tool to help reduce the energy burden of low-income households.

- If new standards are not enacted, then Connecticut residents and businesses would lose out on \$80 million in savings per year after the standards are implemented.