



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
March 14, 2022**

Senators Anwar, Somers and Hwang, Representatives Steinberg and Petit and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **S.B. No. 372 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GREEN INITIATIVES IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

This bill takes a two-pronged approach to reducing the department's carbon footprint and helping meet our state's energy goals. The bill is a starting point for the department's investment in green initiatives that will allow DDS staff to have conversations with the department's qualified providers to see how we can partner to create solutions to reduce each provider's carbon footprint and energy needs and increase their use of renewable and sustainable energy resources. This bill will help DDS to determine a baseline for what will be needed to increase energy efficiency in all settings through the use of Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) energy assessments and the assessment's recommendations.

Subsection (a) encourages any new construction of DDS-licensed residential settings to adopt standards that promote energy efficiency and incorporate certain environmentally friendly materials and techniques. Suggestions for improvements may include the use of Energy Star rated appliances, light emitting diodes (LEDs) lightbulbs, low flow faucets, showerheads, etc.

Subsection (b) allows any existing DDS-licensed residential setting to complete an energy assessment through the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The section requires that a copy of the assessment should be submitted to DDS for review.

Subsection (c) requires DDS to compile a report for the Public Health Committee based on the energy assessments received, summarizing the findings of such energy assessments and providing recommendations for energy efficiency improvements for DDS residences.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on **S.B. No. 372 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GREEN INITIATIVES IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT.** Please contact Kevin Bronson, DDS Director of Communications, Legislation and Regulations at 860-550-3497 with any questions.