

Act No. 174 (S.260). Public service; conservation and development; municipal government; energy

An act relating to improving the siting of energy projects

This act is designated as the Energy Development Improvement Act. Among other provisions, the act:

- Seeks to improve the integration of planning for energy and land use, including creating an option under which municipalities and regional planning commissions may engage in enhanced energy planning that results in greater weight to their plans in the energy siting process before the Public Service Board (Board).
- Makes various amendments to that energy siting process, including establishing additional parties by right, specifying information to be included in the application, and directing the Board to engage in rulemaking on standard conditions related to postconstruction inspection and maintenance of aesthetic mitigation and decommissioning and on sound from wind generation facilities.
- Creates a one-year pilot project under which a portion of the existing standard offer program is set aside for projects in “preferred locations” as defined by the act.
- Creates an “Access to Public Service Board Working Group” to make recommendations to promote increased ease of citizen participation in Board proceedings.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 13, 2016