



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1268

January Session, 2005

* SB01268ENV 040105 *

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE PARKS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-27h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

3 (a) There is established a fund to be known as the "Conservation
4 Fund" which shall be held by the Treasurer. Within the Conservation
5 Fund, there is established and created an account to be known as the
6 "conservation account". The Conservation Fund may include other
7 accounts separate and apart from the conservation account.
8 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the contrary,
9 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the Conservation Fund
10 shall be deposited therein and credited to the conservation account.
11 Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be
12 carried forward in the conservation account for the fiscal year next
13 succeeding. The conservation account shall be used by the Department
14 of Environmental Protection for the administration of the central office
15 and conservation and preservation programs authorized by the
16 general statutes.

17 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the
18 contrary, (1) on and after June 1, 1990, [(1)] (A) the amount of any fee
19 received by the Department of Environmental Protection which is
20 attributable to the establishment of a new fee or the increase of an

21 existing fee pursuant to the provisions of title 23 or 26, and [(2)] (B) any
22 fees paid to the department, pursuant to said titles, which are in excess
23 of the total fees paid to the department pursuant to said titles for the
24 fiscal year ending June 30, 1989, shall be deposited directly into the
25 fund established by subsection (a) of this section and credited to the
26 conservation account. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection
27 shall certify to the Treasurer, with respect to each such fee received on
28 and after June 1, 1990, the amount of such fee which shall be credited
29 to the General Fund and the amount of such fee which shall be
30 credited to the conservation account, and (2) on and after July 1, 2005,
31 all fees collected by the department pursuant to title 23 for parking,
32 admission, boat launching, camping and other recreational uses of
33 state parks, forests, boat launches and other state facilities shall be
34 deposited into the Conservation Fund and credited to the conservation
35 account established by subsection (a) of this section.

36 (c) There is established an account known as the maintenance,
37 repair and improvement account. Said account shall be an account of
38 the Conservation Fund. All moneys collected from any rent paid by
39 any person occupying or otherwise using any property in the custody
40 and control of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection,
41 including houses or other buildings, shall be deposited into the
42 account unless the commissioner enters into a written agreement, signs
43 an instrument or issues a license which specifically states otherwise.
44 Said account may also receive moneys from private or public sources,
45 or from the federal government or a municipal government.
46 Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes or any
47 regulation adopted thereunder, any moneys deposited into the account
48 shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund and credited to the
49 maintenance, repair and improvement account. Any balance
50 remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried
51 forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The account
52 shall be available to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection for
53 maintaining, making improvements to, erecting structures on, or
54 repairing any property in the custody and control of the Commissioner

55 of Environmental Protection, including houses and other buildings.
56 Nothing in this section shall prevent the commissioner from obtaining
57 or using funds from sources other than the account, for maintaining,
58 making improvements to, erecting structures on, or repairing any
59 property in the custody and control of said commissioner, including
60 houses and other buildings.

61 Sec. 2. Section 10-397 of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

63 (a) There are established five regional tourism districts, each of
64 which shall promote and market districts as regional leisure and
65 business traveler destinations to stimulate economic growth. The
66 districts shall be as follows:

67 (1) The eastern regional district, which shall consist of Ashford,
68 Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia,
69 Coventry, East Lyme, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Hampton,
70 Killingly, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Mansfield, Montville, New
71 London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Plainfield, Pomfret,
72 Preston, Putnam, Salem, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Stonington,
73 Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Waterford, Willington, Windham and
74 Woodstock;

75 (2) The central regional district, which shall consist of Andover,
76 Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, Chester, Cromwell, Deep
77 River, East Granby, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Hartford, East
78 Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Essex, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby,
79 Haddam, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Meriden,
80 Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Old Saybrook, Plainville,
81 Portland, Rocky Hill, Somers, South Windsor, Southington, Simsbury,
82 Stafford, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, Windsor Locks, West Hartford,
83 Westbrook, Wethersfield and Windsor;

84 (3) The northwestern regional district, which shall consist of
85 Ansonia, Barkhamsted, Beacon Falls, Bethel, Bethlehem, Bridgewater,
86 Bristol, Brookfield, Burlington, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall,

87 Danbury, Derby, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield,
88 Middlebury, Morris, Naugatuck, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New
89 Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, North Canaan, Oxford, Plymouth,
90 Prospect, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Salisbury, Seymour, Sharon,
91 Sherman, Southbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington,
92 Waterbury, Watertown, Winchester, Wolcott and Woodbury;

93 (4) The south central regional district, which shall consist of
94 Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Clinton, Durham, East Haven, Guilford,
95 Hamden, Killingworth, Madison, Middlefield, Milford, Orange, New
96 Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Wallingford, West Haven and
97 Woodbridge;

98 (5) The southwestern regional district, which shall consist of
99 Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, New Canaan,
100 Monroe, Norwalk, Shelton, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston,
101 Westport and Wilton.

102 (b) Each regional tourism district shall be overseen by a board of
103 directors consisting of one representative from the Friends of
104 Connecticut State Parks, Inc., appointed by such organization, and one
105 representative from each municipality within the district, appointed by
106 the legislative body of the municipality and, where the legislative body
107 is a town meeting, by the board of selectmen. Any such member of a
108 board of directors shall serve for a term of three years. In addition, the
109 board of directors may appoint up to twenty-one persons representing
110 tourism interests within the district to serve on the board. No board
111 member shall be deemed a state employee for serving on said board.
112 All appointments to the board of directors shall be reported to the
113 executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and
114 Tourism.

115 (c) The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in
116 section 1-200, shall apply to each regional tourism district.

117 (d) Not later than October 1, 2003, the commission shall assist each
118 regional tourism district in establishing a committee to draft a charter

119 and bylaws for the regional tourism district and to organize the initial
120 meeting of the board of directors of the district, to be held no later than
121 October 15, 2003.

122 (e) Each regional tourism district shall (1) comply with uniform
123 standards for accounting and reporting expenditures that are
124 established by the commission in accordance with section 10-392 and
125 are based on industry accounting standards developed by the
126 International Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus or other
127 national organizations related to tourism, and (2) on or before January
128 first of each year, submit to the commission, the Office of Policy and
129 Management and the Office of Fiscal Analysis an independent audit in
130 accordance with the provisions of sections 4-230 to 4-236, inclusive.

131 (f) Each regional tourism district shall solicit and may accept private
132 funds for the promotion of tourism within its towns and cities and
133 shall coordinate its activities with any private nonprofit tourist
134 association within the district and within this state, that promotes
135 tourism industry businesses in this state, in order to foster cooperation
136 in the promotion of such businesses. Any funds received by a regional
137 tourism district may be deposited in the account established in section
138 10-395 or in an account established by such tourism district to receive
139 such funds.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2005	22a-27h
Sec. 2	July 1, 2005	10-397

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*