



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 83**

February Session, 2006

Substitute House Bill No. 5017

*House of Representatives, March 22, 2006*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING WAIVER OF STATE PARK FEES FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND VETERANS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-26 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
2 subsection (e) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (NEW) (e) The commissioner shall issue without fee to any resident  
4 of the state who is a licensed foster parent or who is honorably  
5 discharged from the military, upon application of such resident, a  
6 nontransferable annual pass that shall permit free parking, admission  
7 and boat access parking for use at any state park, state forest or state  
8 recreational facility. The commissioner shall not be required to issue  
9 such pass for use at any park, forest or recreational facility that is  
10 wholly managed by a private concessionaire and may require payment  
11 of fees for special events.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	23-26

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Department of Environmental Protection	CF - Revenue Loss	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Note: CF=Conservation Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Assuming 20% of the approximate 2,600 licensed foster care families and 20% of the approximate 310,000 veteran families in Connecticut are issued one free shoreline park pass (\$9 each visit) that they would have previously paid for, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Conservation Fund would incur an annual revenue loss of approximately \$562,680. The total Conservation Fund revenue from parking fees in 2005 was approximately \$2.7 million. The Conservation Fund pays for the personnel and the associated expenses to administer the DEP conservation programs.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future.

**OLR Bill Analysis**  
**sHB 5017**

***AN ACT CONCERNING WAIVER OF STATE PARK FEES FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND VETERANS.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner to issue a free annual pass to state parks, forests, and recreational facilities for applicants who are state residents and (1) are licensed foster parents or (2) were honorably discharged from the military. The pass gives these individuals free admission and parking, including boat access parking, at these locations. Under the bill, DEP is not required to issue a free pass for use at any park, forest, or recreational facility that is wholly managed by a private concessionaire. Such individuals may also be required to pay fees for special events.

By law, state residents age 65 or older receive the free pass benefit and are subject to the same exception for private concessionaires and fees for special events.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2006

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/08/2006)