



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 485

February Session, 2006

House Bill No. 5608

House of Representatives, April 11, 2006

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. STAPLES of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FEE INCREASES FOR CERTAIN VITAL RECORDS, AND LIFETIME FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 7-34a of the 2006 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

4 (a) Town clerks shall receive, for recording any document, ten
5 dollars for the first page and five dollars for each subsequent page or
6 fractional part thereof, a page being not more than eight and one-half
7 by fourteen inches. Town clerks shall receive, for recording the
8 information contained in a certificate of registration for the practice of
9 any of the healing arts, five dollars. Town clerks shall receive, for
10 recording documents conforming to, or substantially similar to, section
11 47-36c, which are clearly entitled "statutory form" in the heading of
12 such documents, as follows: For the first page of a warranty deed, a
13 quitclaim deed, a mortgage deed, or an assignment of mortgage, ten

14 dollars; for each additional page of such documents, five dollars; and
15 for each marginal notation of an assignment of mortgage, subsequent
16 to the first two assignments, one dollar. Town clerks shall receive, for
17 recording any document with respect to which certain data must be
18 submitted by each town clerk to the Secretary of the Office of Policy
19 and Management in accordance with section 10-261b, the sum of two
20 dollars in addition to the recording fee. Any person who offers any
21 written document for recording in the office of any town clerk, which
22 document fails to have legibly typed, printed or stamped directly
23 beneath the signatures the names of the persons who executed such
24 document, the names of any witnesses thereto and the name of the
25 officer before whom the same was acknowledged, shall pay one dollar
26 in addition to the regular fee. Town clerks shall receive, for recording
27 any deed, except a mortgage deed, conveying title to real estate, which
28 deed does not contain the current mailing address of the grantee, the
29 sum of five dollars in addition to the regular recording fee. Town
30 clerks shall receive, for filing any document, five dollars; for receiving
31 and keeping a survey or map, legally filed in the town clerk's office,
32 five dollars; and for indexing such survey or map, in accordance with
33 section 7-32, five dollars, except with respect to indexing any such
34 survey or map pertaining to a subdivision of land as defined in section
35 8-18, in which event town clerks shall receive fifteen dollars for each
36 such indexing. Town clerks shall receive, for a copy of any document
37 either recorded or filed in their offices, one dollar for each page or
38 fractional part thereof, as the case may be; for certifying any copy of
39 the same, [one dollar] two dollars; for making a copy of any survey or
40 map, the actual cost thereof; and for certifying such copy of a survey or
41 map, [one dollar] two dollars. Town clerks shall receive, for recording
42 the commission and oath of a notary public, ten dollars; and for
43 certifying under seal to the official character of a notary, two dollars.

44 Sec. 2. Section 7-74 of the general statutes is repealed and the
45 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

46 (a) The fee for a certification of birth registration shall be [five] ten
47 dollars and the fee for a certified copy of a certificate of birth shall be

48 [five] ten dollars, [except that the] and each additional copy of such
49 certification or certificate shall be five dollars. The fee for such
50 certifications and copies when issued by the department shall be
51 fifteen dollars.

52 (b) The fee for a certified copy of a certificate of marriage or death
53 shall be [five] ten dollars, and each additional copy of the same
54 certificate at the time of the request shall be five dollars. Such fees shall
55 not be required of the department.

56 Sec. 3. Section 26-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

58 No fee shall be charged for any sport fishing license issued under
59 this chapter to any blind person, and such license shall be a lifetime
60 license not subject to the expiration provisions of section 26-35. Proof
61 of such blindness shall be furnished, in the case of a veteran, by the
62 United States Veterans' Administration and, in the case of any other
63 person, by the State Board of Education of the Blind. For the purpose
64 of this section, a person shall be blind only if his central visual acuity
65 does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses, or if his
66 visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation
67 in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field
68 subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees.

69 Sec. 4. Section 26-29a of the general statutes is repealed and the
70 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

71 No fee shall be charged for any sport fishing license issued under
72 this chapter to any [mentally retarded person] person with mental
73 retardation, and such license shall be a lifetime license not subject to
74 the expiration provisions of section 26-35. Proof of mental retardation
75 shall consist of a certificate to that effect issued by any person licensed
76 to practice medicine and surgery in this state.

77 Sec. 5. Section 26-29b of the general statutes is repealed and the
78 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

79 No fee shall be charged for any hunting, sport fishing or trapping
80 license issued under this chapter to any physically disabled person,
81 and such license shall be a lifetime license not subject to the expiration
82 provisions of section 26-35. For the purposes of this section, a
83 "physically disabled person" is any person whose disability consists of
84 the loss of one or more limbs or the permanent loss of the use of one or
85 more limbs. A physically disabled person shall submit to the
86 commissioner a certification, signed by a licensed physician, of such
87 disability. No fee shall be charged for any hunting or sport fishing
88 license issued under this chapter to any physically disabled person
89 who is not a resident of this state if such person is a resident of a state
90 in which a physically disabled person from Connecticut will not be
91 required to pay a fee for a hunting or sport fishing license and such
92 license shall be a lifetime license not subject to the expiration
93 provisions of section 26-35.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	7-34a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	7-74
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	26-29
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	26-29a
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	26-29b

FIN *Joint Favorable*

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 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	9,000	9,000
Department of Environmental Protection	Environmental Conservation Fund - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
All Municipalities	Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The fee increases outlined in the bill will result in a revenue gain to all municipalities in the state. Large cities such as Waterbury, Hartford, and New Haven could potentially have a revenue gain in excess of \$100,000. The remainder of the municipalities would recognize minimal revenue gains commensurate with population size. Increasing the fee for initial copies of marriage and death certificates from \$5 to \$10 will result in a state revenue increase of approximately \$9,000 annually.

Allowing a blind person, a person with mental retardation, and a permanently physically disabled person to submit the required certification of his disability only once, instead of annually, to obtain a free sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license will very minimally reduce the administrative duties of the agency and is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The revenue gains outlined above will continue into the future.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5608

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SUMMARY:

The bill doubles town clerks’ fees for (1) certifying birth registrations; (2) providing certified copies of a birth, marriage, or death certificates and copies of birth registrations; and (3) certifying copies of maps, surveys, or any other documents filed with their offices. It doubles the fees for the Department of Public Health’s registrar of vital statistics to provide the first certified copy of a marriage or death certificate. It also imposes a new fee for a town clerk or the state registrar of vital statistics to provide additional certified copies of marriage or death certificates at the time they provide the first copy.

The bill allows blind people and people with mental retardation to get lifetime sport fishing licenses and physically disabled people to get lifetime hunting, sport fishing, or trapping licenses, instead of requiring them to renew their licenses every year and provide proof of disability each time. By law, the licenses are free.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2006

DOCUMENT FEE INCREASES

Table 1 shows the bill’s proposed increases in document fees issued by town clerks and the state registrar of vital statistics.

TABLE 1: DOCUMENT FEE INCREASES

<i>For</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Certifying a copy of any document filed or recorded in	\$1	\$2

<i>For</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
town clerk's office		
Town clerk certifying copy of map or survey	\$1	\$2
Town clerk certification of birth registration	\$5	\$10
First certified copy of a birth certificate from a town clerk	\$5	\$10
First certified copy of marriage or death certificate from a town clerk or the state registrar of vital statistics	\$5	\$10
Each additional certified copy of the same marriage or death certificate provided at the same time as the first	0	\$5

The bill keeps the existing \$5 town clerk fee for a second and each additional certified copy of a birth certificate. It also maintains existing town clerk copying fees of \$1 per page for most documents and actual cost for maps and surveys.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 47 Nay 0 (03/28/2006)