



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5750

LCO No. 2925

02925_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL
CONSERVATION OFFICERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall appoint such
4 number of conservation officers as may be necessary for the efficient
5 execution of the duties of the department under section 26-6, as
6 amended. The commissioner may supplement the regular conservation
7 officer force by appointing as special conservation officer or as
8 patrolman any employee of the department or any lake patrolman
9 appointed pursuant to section 7-151b. Each conservation officer,
10 special conservation officer, [or] patrolman or lake patrolman shall
11 complete a police training course at the state police training school or
12 an equivalent course approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety.
13 Special conservation officers, [and] patrolmen and lake patrolmen
14 appointed pursuant to this section shall be entitled to the same benefits
15 to which conservation officers are entitled under the provisions of
16 section 5-142, as amended; and such an appointment shall be deemed

17 not to be in conflict with any of the provisions of chapter 67. In
18 addition to their salaries, conservation officers, special conservation
19 officers, [and] patrolmen and lake patrolmen appointed pursuant to
20 this section shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred in
21 performance of official duty.

22 Sec. 2. Section 7-151b of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

24 (a) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may appoint
25 lake patrolmen to enforce any boating laws delegated by said
26 commissioner. Any such lake patrolman may carry a firearm or baton,
27 or both, only upon completion of a basic police training course defined
28 in section 7-294a, as amended, or a firearms safety course offered by
29 the Department of Environmental Protection. Such lake patrolmen
30 shall not be construed to be state employees and compensation
31 therefore shall be paid by the municipality or lake authority
32 responsible for the lake, except lake patrolmen appointed by the
33 commissioner as special conservation officers pursuant to section 26-5,
34 as amended by this act. Such lake patrolmen may use their own vessels
35 to enforce the provisions of this section, provided the state shall not be
36 liable for any damage caused by a lake patrolman using such vessel in
37 the course of such lake patrolman's duties. A municipality employing
38 lake patrolmen shall assume liability for damage caused by such
39 patrolmen pursuant to section 7-465. A lake authority may protect and
40 save harmless any lake patrolman employed by the authority from
41 financial loss and expense, including legal fees and costs, if any, arising
42 out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of alleged
43 negligence on the part of such lake patrolman while acting in the scope
44 of such lake patrolman's employment.

45 (b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall formulate
46 training courses for lake patrolmen appointed pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-5
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	7-151b

Statement of Purpose:

To allow the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to appoint lake patrolmen as special conservation officers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]