



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**Raised Bill No. 519**

LCO No. 2569

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Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 15-13c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is created within the Department of Transportation, for  
4 administrative purposes only, the Connecticut Pilot Commission to  
5 assist and advise the Commissioner of Transportation on matters  
6 relating to the licensure of pilots, the safe conduct of vessels and the  
7 protection of the ports and waters of the state, including the waters of  
8 Long Island Sound.

9 (b) The commission shall consist of nine members, one of whom  
10 shall be the Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's  
11 designee and one of whom shall be an active licensed pilot in this state  
12 operating in the rotation system for the assignment of pilots. The pilot  
13 member shall be designated by a simple majority vote of pilots  
14 operating in the rotation system for the assignment of pilots. The  
15 remaining seven members shall be appointed as follows: The Governor  
16 shall appoint one member representing a maritime-related industry,

17 which industry shall not include a recreational industry; the president  
18 pro tempore of the Senate shall appoint one member representing the  
19 public with an interest in the environment; the majority leader of the  
20 Senate shall appoint one member representing the public with an  
21 interest in the environment; the minority leader of the Senate shall  
22 appoint one member who shall be a retired ship's master or captain;  
23 the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member  
24 representing a maritime-related industry, which industry shall not  
25 include a recreational industry; the majority leader of the House of  
26 Representatives shall appoint one member representing a maritime-  
27 related industry, which industry shall not include a recreational  
28 industry; the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall  
29 appoint one member with an expertise in the area of admiralty law.  
30 Each member shall be a resident of the state, provided no member  
31 shall be an active licensed pilot, except the one active Connecticut  
32 licensed pilot operating in and designated by a simple majority of  
33 pilots operating in the rotation system for the assignment of pilots.  
34 Members shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
35 performance of their duties.

36 (c) On or before July 1, 1992, in accordance with the provisions of  
37 subsection (b) of this section (1) the Governor, the speaker of the  
38 House of Representatives and the majority leader of the Senate shall  
39 each appoint one member who shall serve until July 1, 1996; (2) the  
40 president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the House  
41 of Representatives and the minority leader of the House of  
42 Representatives shall each appoint one member who shall serve until  
43 July 1, 1995; and (3) the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint one  
44 member who shall serve until July 1, 1994. Thereafter, members shall  
45 serve for a term of four years and any vacancies on the commission  
46 shall be filled for the remainder of the term in the same manner as the  
47 original appointment.

48 (d) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the commission  
49 who shall not be an employee of the Department of Transportation.

50 The commission shall elect a vice-chairperson and any other officers  
51 that it deems necessary from among its membership. The powers of  
52 the commission shall be vested in and exercised by not less than [three]  
53 five members serving on the commission. This number shall constitute  
54 a quorum and the affirmative vote of [three] five members present at a  
55 meeting of the commission shall be necessary for any action taken by  
56 the commission.

57 (e) The commission shall [advise the commissioner on the following  
58 matters] set: (1) The required qualifications of pilots for eligibility for  
59 licensure, including background, training, length of service and  
60 apprenticeship; (2) examination requirements for obtaining a pilot's or  
61 other type of operating license; and (3) the appropriate number of  
62 state-licensed pilots necessary for the safe, efficient and proper  
63 operations in the ports and waters of the state, including the waters of  
64 Long Island Sound. [; (4)]

65 (f) The commission shall advise the commissioner on (1) the  
66 establishment of fair and reasonable rates of pilotage, pursuant to  
67 section 15-14, including establishment of a hearing process for the  
68 setting of fair and reasonable rates of pilotage and licensure fees; [(5)]  
69 (2) the policy of the state on the establishment of a rotation system for  
70 the assignment of pilots; [(6)] (3) the policy of the state on the issuance  
71 of reciprocal licenses to pilots licensed in other states; [(7)] (4) the  
72 enhancement of safety and protection of the marine environment  
73 during the operation of vessels and the prevention of oil spills and  
74 other marine incidents; [(8)] (5) the proper equipment required on a  
75 vessel and the operation of vessels used by pilots for embarkation and  
76 disembarkation; [(9)] (6) the designation of pilot boarding stations;  
77 [(10)] (7) the proper safety equipment provided by vessels to enable  
78 pilots to safely board vessels; [(11)] (8) the state's policy relative to  
79 matters of interstate pilotage; and [(12)] (9) any other matter requested  
80 by the commissioner.

81 [(f)] (g) The commission shall: [, at the request of the commissioner:]

82 (1) Assist in the preparation of examinations for pilot licensure and  
83 other operating certificates; (2) evaluate the examination results of  
84 applicants for a pilot license and make appropriate recommendations  
85 concerning such applicants' qualifications; (3) assist in the review and  
86 monitoring of the performance of pilots, including compliance with  
87 state policies, procedures and regulations; (4) review applications for  
88 reciprocal licensure and make appropriate recommendations  
89 concerning such pilot's qualifications; (5) recommend the duties of  
90 pilots for the reporting of faulty pilot boarding and disembarkation  
91 systems and of violations of any state laws; (6) review and investigate  
92 any marine incident or casualty and conduct hearings to determine the  
93 causes of any such incident; (7) investigate and make  
94 recommendations on disciplinary measures, including such measures  
95 as letters of caution, admonition or reprimand and licensure  
96 suspension or forfeiture, including disciplinary matters relative to  
97 alcohol or drug abuse; (8) retain an independent investigator to  
98 compile a comprehensive factual record of any marine incident or  
99 casualty; (9) assist in the review of complaints filed with the  
100 commissioner; and (10) assist in the preparation of any report or  
101 matter relative to pilotage.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	15-13c

**Statement of Purpose:**

To amend and clarify the membership and duties of the Connecticut Pilot Commission.

*[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.]*