



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**Raised Bill No. 656**

LCO No. 3115

\*03115\_\_\_\_\_ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR AGRICULTURE,  
OPEN SPACE AND BROWNFIELDS PROGRAMS.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) For the purposes described in  
2 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have  
3 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the  
4 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in  
5 the aggregate thirty million dollars.

6 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the  
7 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the  
8 Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes contained in  
9 subsection (c) of this section.

10 (c) The Department of Environmental Protection shall:

11 (1) Use fifteen million dollars of the proceeds of the bonds to  
12 establish and administer a program of grants to municipalities for  
13 brownfield restoration and remediation in distressed communities, as  
14 defined in section 32-9p of the general statutes, that target properties

15 that were contaminated by the current owner or successor to the  
16 current owner, which current owner was in compliance with any  
17 applicable environmental laws at the time of contamination. The  
18 department shall not use more than ten per cent of the proceeds of the  
19 bonds allocated to this subdivision for administrative costs;

20 (2) Use ten million dollars of the proceeds of the bonds to provide  
21 grants to municipalities for open space programs; and

22 (3) Use five million dollars of the proceeds of the bonds for grants to  
23 municipalities for urban park restoration and improvement, with a  
24 priority given to the restoration of sites having particular historical  
25 importance to landscape architecture. The department shall not use  
26 more than three per cent of the proceeds of the bonds allocated to this  
27 subdivision for the design portion of the grants, and not more than  
28 two per cent of the proceeds of the bonds allocated to this subdivision  
29 for administrative costs.

30 (d) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the  
31 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not  
32 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and  
33 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission  
34 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the  
35 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized  
36 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to  
37 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
38 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
39 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
40 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be  
41 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
42 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is  
43 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
44 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,  
45 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this  
46 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and

47 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the  
48 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and  
49 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of  
50 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual  
51 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State  
52 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become  
53 due.

54       Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) For the purposes described in  
55 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have  
56 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the  
57 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in  
58 the aggregate thirty million dollars.

59       (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the  
60 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the  
61 Department of Agriculture for the purpose of providing additional  
62 funding for farmland preservation programs pursuant to chapter 422  
63 of the general statutes. The department shall not use more than ten per  
64 cent of the proceeds of the bonds for administrative costs.

65       (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the  
66 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not  
67 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and  
68 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission  
69 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the  
70 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized  
71 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to  
72 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
73 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
74 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
75 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be  
76 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
77 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is  
78 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and

79 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,  
80 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this  
81 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and  
82 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the  
83 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and  
84 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of  
85 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual  
86 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State  
87 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become  
88 due.

89       Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
90 study strategies for providing long-term funding for the protection of  
91 the state's natural resource lands, including open space, working farm  
92 land, brownfields and urban parks. The task force shall consist of six  
93 members, two appointed by the house chairman of the joint standing  
94 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
95 relating to the environment, two appointed by the senate chairman of  
96 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
97 cognizance of matters relating to the environment, one appointed by  
98 the house ranking member of the joint standing committee of the  
99 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
100 environment, and one appointed by the senate ranking member of the  
101 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
102 of matters relating to the environment.

103       (b) Not later than January 1, 2007, the task force shall submit a  
104 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
105 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
106 relating to the environment, in accordance with the provisions of  
107 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on  
108 the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2007, whichever is  
109 later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To authorize bonds of the state for agricultural programs, urban park restoration, brownfield remediation and municipal open space.

*[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.]*