



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 5608**

LCO No. 2066

\*02066 \_\_\_\_\_ ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF LITTER TO INCLUDE FISHING LINE AND REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO PRINT CONSPICUOUS NOTICES ON RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSES REGARDING PENALTIES FOR IMPROPERLY DISCARDING FISHING LINE.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-248 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

3 As used in sections 22a-247 to 22a-249, inclusive, 22a-250 and 22a-  
4 251:

5 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental  
6 Protection or his designated agent as defined in subsection (b) of  
7 section 22a-2;

8 (2) "Department" means the Department of Environmental  
9 Protection;

10 (3) "Person" means person as defined in subsection (c) of section  
11 22a-2;

12 (4) "Litter" means any discarded, used or unconsumed substance or  
13 waste material, whether made of aluminum, glass, plastic, rubber,  
14 paper, or other natural or synthetic material, or any combination  
15 thereof, including, but not limited to, fishing line, any bottle, jar or can,  
16 or any top, cap or detachable tab of any bottle, jar or can, any  
17 unlighted cigarette, cigar, match or any flaming or glowing material or  
18 any garbage, trash, refuse, debris, rubbish, grass clippings or other  
19 lawn or garden waste, newspaper, magazines, glass, metal, plastic or  
20 paper containers or other packaging or construction material which  
21 has not been deposited in a litter receptacle;

22 (5) "Litter bag" means a bag, sack or other container made of any  
23 material which is large enough to serve as a receptacle for litter inside  
24 a motor vehicle or watercraft of any person and is not necessarily  
25 limited to the state recommended litter bag but shall be similar in size  
26 and capacity;

27 (6) "Litter receptacle" means a receptacle suitable for the depositing  
28 of litter;

29 (7) "Vehicle" includes every device capable of being moved upon a  
30 public highway and in, upon or by which any person or property is or  
31 may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, except devices  
32 moved by human or animal power or used exclusively upon stationary  
33 rails or tracks;

34 (8) "Watercraft" means any boat, ship, vessel, barge or other floating  
35 craft;

36 (9) "Public place" means any area that is used or held out for use by  
37 the public whether owned or operated by public or private interests;

38 (10) "Recycling" means the process of sorting, cleansing, treating  
39 and reconstituting waste or other discarded material for the purpose of  
40 using the altered form;

41 (11) "Recycling center" means any facility at which recyclable

42 material is processed or stored, separated or prepared for reuse or  
43 resale;

44 (12) "Dump" means to discard (A) more than one cubic foot in  
45 volume of litter at one time or (B) furniture, garbage bags or contents  
46 thereof or other similar materials. Material which has been placed at a  
47 location with an intent to leave it indefinitely at such location, or  
48 material which has not been removed from a location within forty-five  
49 days, is deemed discarded.

50 Sec. 2. Section 26-112 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
51 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

52 The commissioner may, after notice and public hearing, issue  
53 regulations governing fishing for all species of fish and the taking of all  
54 bait species in the inland district, which regulations may: (1) Establish  
55 the open and closed seasons, which may be modified by decreasing or  
56 increasing the number of days on any specific species, (2) establish  
57 hours, days or periods during the open season when fishing shall not  
58 be permitted in designated waters for all or limited species, (3)  
59 prescribe the legal methods of taking, (4) establish the legal length, (5)  
60 establish the daily creel limit, the season creel limit and the possession  
61 limit, (6) restrict or prohibit wading in streams or portions thereof,  
62 fishing from boats, canoes, rafts and other floating devices and fishing  
63 from designated land areas, (7) establish the maximum number of  
64 persons, boats, canoes and other floating devices that may use any area  
65 of water for fishing, (8) require that a permit be obtained from the  
66 landowner or his agent, or from the commissioner or an agent of the  
67 department, to enter upon designated premises or areas for the  
68 purpose of fishing, and further require that such permit be returned  
69 within a specified time to the issuing authority with an accurate report  
70 of all fish taken under such permit, time spent on the area and any  
71 other data required by the commissioner for management purposes,  
72 (9) restrict or prohibit the use of any craft other than manually  
73 propelled, (10) designate areas of land and water that shall be

74 restricted for the exclusive use of children or the physically  
75 handicapped. For the purpose of protecting public and private  
76 interests and preventing unreasonable conduct and abuses by  
77 fishermen, and to provide reasonable control of the actions and  
78 behavior of such persons, said commissioner may issue regulations  
79 and orders to (11) provide that entrance to and exit from streams, lakes  
80 and ponds shall be restricted to rights-of-way designated by posters or  
81 that consent shall be obtained from the landowner or his agent, (12)  
82 establish reasonable distances from the banks of streams, lakes and  
83 ponds beyond which fishermen shall not trespass, (13) prohibit  
84 crossing over lawns and lands under cultivation, (14) prohibit damage  
85 to property, livestock and agricultural crops, (15) prohibit swimming  
86 and picnicking in designated areas, (16) prohibit the operation or  
87 parking of vehicles on designated portions of public and private roads,  
88 parking areas, lanes, passageways, rights-of-way, fields and lots, (17)  
89 prohibit the discarding of bottles, glass, cans, paper, junk, litter and  
90 trash, including, but not limited to, fishing line, and (18) control the  
91 launching, anchoring, mooring, storage and abandonment of boats,  
92 trailers and related equipment on properties under the control of the  
93 commissioner.

94 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) Each sport fishing license  
95 issued pursuant to part III of chapter 490 of the general statutes shall  
96 contain a conspicuous statement printed on such license stating that  
97 any person who discards fishing line in the waters of the state, on  
98 public property of the state or on private property not owned by such  
99 person, shall be subject to a fine under section 22a-250 of the general  
100 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	22a-248
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	26-112
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To expand the definition of litter to include fishing line, to prohibit the discarding of fishing line on state land and in state waters and on certain private land, and to require printed notices on recreational fishing licenses regarding fines for improper discarding of fishing line.

*[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.]*