



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 371**

LCO No. 2049

\*02049\_\_\_\_\_ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT INCREASING MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS FOR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 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 Section 26-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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. The total  
6 number of such conservation officers appointed shall not be less than  
7 seventy for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, and not less than  
8 seventy-five for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010. The  
9 commissioner may supplement the regular conservation officer force  
10 by appointing as special conservation officer any employee of the  
11 department or any sworn federal law enforcement officer of the United  
12 States Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service,  
13 provided such federal officer shall not be considered an employee of  
14 the state and may only exercise such officer's authority pursuant to  
15 section 26-6 when working with a full-time conservation officer. The  
16 commissioner may also appoint any lake patrolman as a special

17 conservation officer solely for the purpose of enforcing boating laws  
18 within such patrolman's jurisdiction, provided such patrolman shall  
19 not be considered an employee of the state, and further provided that  
20 such patrolman has completed a police training course at the state  
21 police training school or an equivalent course approved by the  
22 Commissioner of Public Safety. Notwithstanding the provisions of this  
23 section, no such lake patrolman shall carry a firearm while in the  
24 performance of his or her duties as a special conservation officer unless  
25 the board of selectmen of the town or towns in which the lake on  
26 which the lake patrolman serves is located approves such carrying of a  
27 firearm, or in the case of any town having no board of selectmen, the  
28 lake patrolman obtains the approval of the legislative body of such  
29 town or towns in which the lake is located. Each conservation officer or  
30 special conservation officer shall complete a police training course at  
31 the state police training school or an equivalent course approved by  
32 the Commissioner of Public Safety. Special conservation officers who  
33 are employees of the department shall be entitled to the same benefits  
34 to which conservation officers are entitled under the provisions of  
35 section 5-142; and such an appointment shall be deemed not to be in  
36 conflict with any of the provisions of chapter 67. In addition to their  
37 salaries, conservation officers and special conservation officers who are  
38 employees of the department shall be reimbursed for all expenses  
39 incurred in performance of official duty.

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

**Statement of Purpose:**

To increase minimum staffing levels for Department of Environmental Protection 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.]*