



# Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**File No. 115**

Senate Bill No. 60

*Senate, March 21, 2011*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. MEYER of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT AND PERMITTING DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of  
2 Environmental Protection shall establish staffing levels for the  
3 Department of Environmental Protection that enable the department to  
4 fully perform all of the department's permitting and enforcement  
5 responsibilities in a timely and responsive manner. Not later than  
6 February 1, 2012, the commissioner shall provide the joint standing  
7 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
8 relating to the environment with a written copy of such staffing levels.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**ENV** Joint Favorable

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** See Below

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish staffing levels that enable the agency to fully perform its permitting and enforcement responsibilities in a "timely and responsive" manner. The department recently conducted the *State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Permitting Assessment Report*<sup>1</sup> as a requirement of PA 10-158, "AA Concerning the Permit and Regulatory Authority of the Department of Environmental Protection and Establishing an Office of the Permit Ombudsman Within the Department of Economic and Community Development."

This report indicates that DEP would require 64 additional positions; 53 additional program staff, five additional legal staff, and six additional information technology (IT) staff<sup>2</sup>. The estimated annual salaries are: \$51,500 for the 53 program positions; \$66,500 for the five attorneys; and \$68,500 for the six IT positions. Therefore, the annualized cost to hire the 64 positions detailed in the report is estimated to be \$3.5 million in both FY 12 and FY 13. The fringe benefit costs for the 64 positions are estimated to be \$825,300 in both FY 12 and FY 13. The total cost is \$4.3 million in both FY 12 and FY 13.

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<sup>1</sup>

[http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/permits\\_and\\_licenses/assessment/permit\\_assessment\\_report.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/permits_and_licenses/assessment/permit_assessment_report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Permitting Assessment Report, page iv.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 60*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT AND PERMITTING DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection commissioner to (1) establish department staffing levels that enable it to fully perform its permitting and enforcement responsibilities in a timely and responsive manner and (2) provide the Environment Committee with a written copy of such staffing levels by February 1, 2012.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26    Nay 0    (03/09/2011)