



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6503

LCO No. 3967

03967 _____ ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSERVATION DISTRICT FUNDING.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-27j of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 (a) Any person, firm or corporation, other than a municipality,
4 making an application for any approval required by chapters 124, 126,
5 440 and 444 or by regulations adopted pursuant to said chapters shall
6 pay a fee of twenty dollars, in addition to any other fee which may be
7 required, to the municipal agency or legislative body which is
8 authorized to approve the application. On and after July 1, 2004, the
9 fee shall be thirty dollars. On and after October 1, 2009, the fee shall be
10 sixty dollars. Such municipal agency or legislative body shall collect
11 such fees, retaining two dollars of such fee for administrative costs,
12 and shall pay the remainder of such fees quarterly to the Department
13 of Environmental Protection and the receipts shall be deposited into
14 [the General Fund] an account of the State Treasurer and credited to
15 the Environmental Quality Fund established pursuant to section 2 of
16 this act. The portion of such fund attributable to the fees established by

17 this section shall be used by the Department of Environmental
18 Protection for the purpose of funding the Council on Soil and Water
19 Conservation established pursuant to section 22a-315 and the eight
20 county soil and water conservation districts.

21 (b) Not later than three months following the close of each fiscal
22 year starting with fiscal year July 1, 2000, the Department of
23 Environmental Protection shall identify those municipalities that are
24 not in compliance with subsection (a) of this section for the previous
25 fiscal year and shall provide the Office of Policy and Management with
26 a list of such municipalities. The list shall be submitted annually and in
27 such manner as the Office of Policy and Management may require. The
28 Office of Policy and Management, when issuing the first payment from
29 the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund established pursuant to
30 section 3-55i, in the fiscal year during which said list is received, shall
31 reduce said payment to a municipality by one thousand dollars for
32 each quarter of the preceding fiscal year that the municipality has not
33 been in compliance with subsection (a) of this section to a maximum of
34 four thousand dollars in each fiscal year. The Office of Policy and
35 Management shall certify to the State Comptroller the amount of any
36 funds withheld under this subsection to be transferred to the
37 Environmental Quality Fund for the uses set forth in subsection (a) of
38 this section, and the State Comptroller shall cause said amount to be
39 transferred to such fund.

40 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) There is established a fund to be
41 known as the "Environmental Quality Fund" which shall be held by
42 the Treasurer. Within the Environmental Quality Fund, there is
43 established and created an account to be known as the "environmental
44 quality account". The Environmental Quality Fund may include other
45 accounts separate and apart from the environmental quality account.
46 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any moneys
47 required by law to be deposited in the Environmental Quality Fund
48 shall be deposited therein and credited to the environmental quality
49 account. Any balance remaining in the environmental quality account

50 at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the
51 environmental quality account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The
52 environmental quality account shall be used by the Department of
53 Environmental Protection for the administration of the central office
54 and environmental quality programs authorized by the general
55 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	22a-27j
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To reestablish the fee-based funding mechanism for soil and water conservation districts.

[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.]