

# COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

## IN OPPOSITION to H.B. No. 5263 (RAISED) AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR POACHING.

by Robert T. Crook, Director  
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While we support increased penalties for poaching wildlife, we have serious concerns concerning language in Sec. (a) (2) although it is current law. While written permission is required for hunting and trapping to enter on any premises (see below), none is required for fishing unless posted, etc. found in subsection (3). Concerning fishing, we have concerns about riparian rights, fishing under docks, and other issues which may not be readily apparent to fishermen.

(**Sec. 26-86a** Deer may be so **hunted** at such times and in such areas of such state-owned land as are designated by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and on privately owned land with the signed consent of the landowner, on forms furnished by the department, and such signed consent shall be carried by any person when so hunting on private land. --- **Sec.26-72** No person shall set, place or attend any **trap** upon the land of another without having in such person's possession the written permission of the owner or lessee of such land, or such owner's or lessee's agent,)

**A substitute to this bill might read** (2) such person enters or remains in any premises for the purpose of hunting and [,] trapping unless granted written permission by the landowner, lessee, or agent of the landowner or fishing in violation of subsection (3); or

...

**This bill also singles out sportsmen for special treatment with no definitive reason! While we agree that persons who are on lands particularly for hunting and trapping are probably poachers - if they have not illegally taken wildlife they are just trespassers.** Sec 1 (b) raises the hunting, trapping, fishing penalty contrary to all other trespasses: "(b) Criminal trespass in the third degree is a class C misdemeanor, "except that any person found guilty under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor and fined one thousand dollars."

### **We urge rejection of Subsection (b).**

**There are other bills updating fines for illegal activities concerning sportsmen's issues:**

**H.B. No. 5145 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF UNCLASSIFIED MISDEMEANORS.** Judiciary Committee. **SUPPORT.** See Boating Sec. 3-9, 141; Hunting Sec 21-31, 103, 113-114, 133-139, 150-152; Fishing Sec 83-86; Misc 176; plus multiples on Shellfish.

**S.B. No. 336 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NEGLIGENT HUNTING.** Public Safety and Security Committee. **SUPPORT.**

Thank you.