



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 380

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5120

House of Representatives, April 12, 2012

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES,
IMPROVING SAFE HUNTING EDUCATION, AMENDING DEFINITIONS
FOR THE WILDLIFE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ESTABLISHING A TASK
FORCE TO STUDY WHETHER TO TRANSFER THE CONSERVATION
FUNCTIONS OF SAID DEPARTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 26-27 of the 2012 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2013*):

4 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), (c), (e), (f), (g) or (h) of this
5 section and other provisions of this chapter providing specific license
6 exemption, no person shall take, hunt or trap, or shall attempt to take,
7 hunt or trap, or assist in taking, hunting or trapping, any wild bird or
8 mammal and no person [more than] sixteen years of age or older shall
9 take, attempt to take, or assist in taking any fish or bait species in the
10 inland waters or marine district by any method or land marine fish

11 and bait species in the state, regardless of where such marine fish or
12 bait species are taken, without first having obtained a license as
13 provided in this chapter. No person under sixteen years of age shall
14 hunt or trap, except as provided in section 26-38.

15 Sec. 2. Section 26-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the
16 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2013*):

17 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), [and] (c) and (d) of this
18 section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping and
19 sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as follows:
20 (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2) resident
21 fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine waters fishing
22 license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters fishing license,
23 five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license, thirty-two dollars;
24 (6) resident combination license to fish in inland waters and firearms
25 hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination license to fish in
26 marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars; (8) resident
27 combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, [thirty-
28 eight] forty dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all waters
29 and bow and arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued
30 pursuant to section 26-86c, sixty-five dollars; (10) resident firearms
31 super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, firearms
32 private land shotgun or rifle deer permit issued pursuant to section 26-
33 86a, and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on
34 private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, [eighty] seventy dollars;
35 (11) resident archery super sport license to fish in all waters, bow and
36 arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued pursuant to section
37 26-86c and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on
38 private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-two dollars; (12)
39 resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms
40 hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer permit, muzzleloader
41 private land deer permit, pursuant to section 26-86 and private land
42 permit to hunt wild turkey during spring season pursuant to section
43 26-48a, eighty-four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to
44 fish in all waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation

45 stamp, and migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), [sixty] fifty dollars;
46 (14) resident trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior
47 trapping license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars;
48 (16) junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident
49 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland
50 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters
51 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two
52 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;
53 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three
54 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing
55 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to
56 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)
57 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
58 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to
59 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)
60 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. Persons sixty-
61 five years of age and over who have been residents of this state for not
62 less than one year and who meet the requirements of subsection (b) of
63 section 26-31 may be issued an annual license to firearms hunt or to
64 fish or combination license to fish and firearms hunt or a license to trap
65 without fee. The issuing agency shall indicate on a combination license
66 the specific purpose for which such license is issued. The town clerk
67 shall retain a recording fee of one dollar for each license issued by him
68 or her.

69 (b) Any nonresident residing in one of the New England states or
70 the state of New York may procure a license to hunt or to fish or to
71 hunt and fish for the same fee or fees as a resident of this state if he or
72 she is a resident of a state the laws of which allow the same privilege to
73 residents of this state.

74 (c) The fee for a group fishing license, as described in subsection (h)
75 of section 26-30, shall be two hundred fifty dollars.

76 (d) For the period beginning on January 1, 2013, and ending on
77 December 31, 2013, the fee charged for any firearms hunting, archery

78 hunting, trapping or sport fishing license that is issued to any
79 Connecticut resident who is sixteen or seventeen years of age shall be
80 equal to fifty per cent of the fee provided for such license in subsection
81 (a) of this section rounded to the next highest dollar.

82 (e) In addition to the calendar day designated pursuant to
83 subsection (f) of section 26-27, as amended by this act, the
84 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may designate
85 up to two additional days in each calendar year in which a one-day
86 license for sport fishing may be issued free of charge. Such one-day
87 license shall, at said commissioner's discretion, be made available to all
88 members of the public or to all members of an age group designated
89 by said commissioner.

90 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 26-31 of the general statutes is
91 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
92 *January 1, 2013*):

93 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
94 shall formulate conservation courses of instruction in safe trapping,
95 hunting and archery practices and the handling and use of traps and
96 hunting implements, including bow and arrow, for such persons as are
97 applying for a license to hunt with firearms or to hunt with bow and
98 arrow or trap for the first time and for minors who fall within the
99 provisions of section 26-38, and shall designate one or more competent
100 persons or organizations to give such instruction. Any person or
101 organization so designated shall give such instruction to any person
102 requesting the same and shall, upon the successful completion thereof,
103 recommend to the commissioner issuance of a certificate of completion
104 to such person. Successful completion of such instruction for hunting
105 license applicants shall include, but not be limited to, achieving a
106 passing grade on an examination formulated by the commissioner,
107 which shall include correctly stating in writing, or reciting orally, the
108 regulations for hunting in proximity to buildings occupied by persons
109 or domestic animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible
110 materials and the regulations for shooting towards persons, buildings

111 or animals. [Any such person or organization may charge any person
112 taking the course of instruction in trapping a reasonable fee,
113 established by regulation adopted by the commissioner in accordance
114 with chapter 54, to cover the cost of supplies, materials and equipment
115 necessary for such course of instruction. No fee shall be charged for a
116 course of instruction in hunting or archery.] Such instruction shall
117 include hands-on training, formulated by the commissioner, in the
118 handling of firearms or archery equipment. Such training shall be
119 offered at no cost to the license applicant. For any portion of the
120 instruction that is not hands-on, the license applicant may choose to
121 complete either a fee-based Internet program approved by the
122 commissioner or free instruction offered by a competent person or
123 organization authorized by the commissioner to provide such
124 instruction.

125 Sec. 4. Section 26-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

127 Words and terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows:

128 (1) "Animal" includes birds, quadrupeds, reptiles and amphibians.

129 (2) "Bait species" means all species of fish, frogs, crustaceans and
130 insects listed as bait in the regulations issued by the Commissioner of
131 Energy and Environmental Protection.

132 (3) "Black bass" means [small mouth] smallmouth bass (*Micropterus*
133 *dolomieu*) and [large mouth] largemouth bass (*Micropterus*
134 *salmoides*).

135 (4) Repealed.

136 (5) "Closed season" means that period of time during which
137 hunting, trapping or fishing is prohibited for any species of wildlife.

138 (6) "Commercial fisherman" means any person, firm or corporation
139 engaged in commercial fishing.

140 (7) "Commercial fishing" means taking or attempting to take any
141 finfish, crustacea, sea scallops, squid, horseshoe crabs or bait species
142 for commercial purposes or by the use of any commercial fishing gear.

143 (8) "Commercial fishing gear" means any equipment commonly
144 used to take finfish, crustacea, sea scallops, squid, horseshoe crabs or
145 bait species for commercial purposes including, but not limited to,
146 lobster pots, otter trawls, beam trawls, balloon trawls, midwater
147 trawls, sea scallop dredges, scoop nets, scap nets, seines, trap nets, fyke
148 nets, crab traps, gill nets, trammel nets, set lines, long lines, hook and
149 line if such fishing is conducted for commercial purposes, minnow
150 seines, minnow traps, eel pots, fish pots, pound nets, throw nets or
151 similar devices and any equipment listed as commercial fishing gear in
152 regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Energy and
153 Environmental Protection.

154 (9) "Commercial hatchery" means an institution or place where
155 legally acquired fish are held, hatched and reared for sale or where fish
156 so acquired or hatched are reared or held for sale in waters which are
157 under complete control of the owner.

158 (10) "Daily bag, catch or creel limit" means the quantity or number
159 of wildlife allowed to be taken during the period from 12:01 a.m. to
160 12:00 midnight as provided by this chapter or by regulations made by
161 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

162 (11) "Grouse" includes ruffed grouse, partridge and spruce grouse.

163 (12) "Hunting" means pursuing, shooting, killing and capturing any
164 bird, quadruped or reptile and attempting to pursue, shoot, kill and
165 capture any bird, quadruped or reptile, whether such act results in
166 taking or not, including any act of assistance to any other person in
167 taking or attempting to take any such animal.

168 [(13) "Quadruped" means any four-legged animal which is ferae
169 naturae or wild by nature, although such animal may be enclosed and
170 considered a pet or semidomesticated, but shall exclude purely

171 domesticated animals.]

172 [(14)] (13) "Pickerel" means the chain pickerel (*Esox niger*), not the
173 dwarf species referred to variously as the banded pickerel (*Esox*
174 *americanus*), grass pike, grass pickerel, mud pike or brook pickerel.

175 [(15)] (14) "Private waters" means a natural or artificial pond or lake
176 to which the owner, not a corporation, partnership or voluntary
177 association, has exclusive right of access, of which water supply all
178 sources are located substantially within the property of the owner, to
179 which fish do not have access from waters not under the control of
180 such owner or from water stocked at the expense of the state, except
181 that a natural or artificial pond five acres or less in extent may be
182 owned by an individual, a corporation, partnership or voluntary
183 association and, when meeting the other requirements of this
184 subsection, such pond may be registered as private waters.

185 (15) "Quadruped" means any four-legged animal which is ferae
186 naturae or wild by nature, although such animal may be enclosed and
187 considered a pet or semidomesticated, but shall exclude purely
188 domesticated animals.

189 (16) "Seafood dealer" means (A) a person, firm or corporation, other
190 than the ultimate consumer, who purchases, ships, consigns, transfers,
191 transports, barter, accepts or packs lobsters, sea scallops, finfish,
192 crabs, including horseshoe crabs, or squid directly from a commercial
193 fisherman for resale, or (B) a commercial fisherman who sells, ships,
194 consigns, transfers or barter his or her own catch of such species to
195 anyone other than a seafood dealer.

196 (17) "Set line" means a line fastened between two points, to which is
197 attached a number of smaller lines with hooks attached, but a single
198 line not personally attended may constitute a set line.

199 (18) "Snare" means a device, often consisting of a noose, used to kill
200 or injure animals by entanglement, strangulation or decapitation.

201 [(18)] (19) "Sport fishing" means taking or attempting to take any

202 fish, crustacea, sea scallops, squid, horseshoe crabs or bait species
203 whether from salt, brackish or fresh water by any method other than
204 by commercial methods specified by law and regulations of the
205 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for
206 commercial purposes.

207 [(19)] (20) "Taking" means shooting, pursuing, hunting, fishing,
208 killing, capturing, trapping, snaring, hooking and netting any species
209 of wildlife and attempting to shoot, pursue, hunt, fish, kill, capture,
210 trap, snare, hook, net or catch any species of wildlife or any act of
211 assistance to any other person in taking or attempting to take such
212 wildlife whether or not such act results in the capture of any such
213 wildlife.

214 [(20)] (21) "Trapping" means pursuing, killing and capturing by use
215 of any trap, snare, net or other device any bird or wild or domestic
216 quadruped, excluding rats, mice, moles and reptiles, whether such act
217 results in taking or not, including any act of assistance to any other
218 person in taking or attempting to take any such animal by any such
219 method.

220 [(21)] (22) "Trout and salmon" includes brook trout or speckled
221 trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, lake trout, Atlantic salmon, kokanee
222 or sockeye salmon, coho salmon, chinook salmon or any hybrid of any
223 two or more of these species.

224 [(22)] (23) "Wildlife" means all species of invertebrates, fish,
225 amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals which are *ferae naturae* or
226 wild by nature.

227 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2012*) For the period beginning on
228 January 1, 2013, and ending on December 31, 2013, the fee charged
229 pursuant to section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a or 26-86c of the general
230 statutes for any firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport
231 fishing permit, tag or stamp that is issued to any Connecticut resident
232 who is less than eighteen years of age shall be fifty per cent of the fee
233 provided under said sections rounded to the next highest dollar.

234 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
235 study whether the functions, powers and duties of the Commissioner
236 of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of
237 Energy and Environmental Protection that are described in titles 23
238 and 26 of the general statutes shall be transferred to the Commissioner
239 of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture, respectively.

240 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

241 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

242 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

243 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
244 Representatives;

245 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

246 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
247 Representatives;

248 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

249 (7) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
250 the commissioner's designee;

251 (8) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's
252 designee;

253 (9) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
254 secretary's designee; and

255 (10) Two persons appointed by the Governor.

256 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
257 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
258 of the General Assembly.

259 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
260 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be

261 filled by the appointing authority.

262 (e) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the
263 secretary's designee shall be the chairperson of the task force. Such
264 chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which
265 shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this
266 section.

267 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committees of the
268 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
269 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the
270 Department of Agriculture shall serve as administrative staff of the
271 task force.

272 (g) Not later than November 1, 2012, the task force shall submit a
273 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
274 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
275 relating to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
276 and the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the provisions
277 of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate
278 on the date that it submits such report or November 1, 2012, whichever
279 is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	26-27(a)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	26-28
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2013</i>	26-31(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	26-1
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 13 \$	FY 14 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Legislative Mgmt.; Various State Agencies	GF - Cost	Less than 1,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires those aged 16 and older to obtain a license to fish. Currently, those aged 17 and older are required to obtain a license to fish and there is no charge for those under this age. This would result in a minimal revenue gain to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) as it requires a larger group of individuals to purchase fishing licenses. In FY 11, the state collected \$1,190,595 from the sale of 38,803 resident and nonresident fishing licenses.¹

The bill also increases the fee, from \$38 to \$40 for the resident combination all-waters fishing and firearms hunting license and creates new combinations of fishing and hunting licenses. There were 21,726 of these licenses sold in FY 11. Based on this level of sales, there would be an additional \$43,452 generated from the \$2 fee increase.

The bill also decreases the fee for two combination licenses. These two combination licenses have never been sold because the price for

¹ Currently, resident fishing licenses are \$28 and nonresident fishing licenses are \$55. This figure does not include the marine waters license or any combination of hunting and fishing licenses.

the combination license is greater than the sum of its individual licenses. Thus, reducing the combination fees is anticipated to result in increased revenue for these two combination licenses.

In addition, the bill reduces calendar year 2013 fees for junior resident fishing or hunting fees by 50% (rounded to the next highest dollar). In FY 11, 1,566 junior trapping and fishing licenses were sold generating \$17,226 in revenue. Based on this level of sales, there would be a revenue loss of approximately \$8,613.

The bill also allows the DEEP commissioner to authorize up to two additional days each year when a one-day sport fishing license may be issued with no fee. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as it is expected that those who would participate would not otherwise purchase a license. It is current practice to designate one day in each calendar year for sport fishing without a license.

The bill establishes a task force which may result in a cost of less than \$1,000 to agencies participating in the task force to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

The bill makes other changes which do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, changes in fees, and the number of licenses issued. There is no ongoing cost for the task force, as it terminates on or before November 1, 2012.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5120*****AN ACT CONCERNING HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES, IMPROVING SAFE HUNTING EDUCATION, AMENDING DEFINITIONS FOR THE WILDLIFE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WHETHER TO TRANSFER THE CONSERVATION FUNCTIONS OF SAID DEPARTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes changes in various hunting, fishing, and trapping laws. It:

1. lowers, from 17 to 16, the age requirement for obtaining a fishing license;
2. changes certain hunting and fishing license fees, including reducing fees for 2013 by 50% for minors who are state residents;
3. authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to designate two days each year when a one-day sport fishing license may be issued for free;
4. requires hunting and trapping courses to include free hands-on training; and
5. defines the term "snare" for purposes of existing laws.

The bill also establishes a 13-member task force to study whether to move DEEP's conservation functions to the Department of Agriculture (DoAG). The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Environment Committee by November 1, 2012.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

§ 1 – SIXTEEN YEAR-OLDS NEED FISHING LICENSE

The bill requires people age 16 and older, instead of 17 and older, to obtain a license to fish.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2013

§ 2 – HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES

The bill increases one resident combination hunting and fishing license fee and reduces two resident supersport combination license fees, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Resident Sportsman’s License Fees

<i>License</i>	<i>Current Law</i>	<i>The Bill</i>
Combination (all-waters fishing and firearms hunting)	\$38	\$40
Firearms supersport (all-waters fishing, firearms hunting, deer on private land with shotgun or rifle, and wild turkey in spring on private land)	80	70
Firearms supersport (all-waters fishing, firearms hunting, migratory bird conservation stamp, and migratory bird harvest permit)	60	50

The bill also reduces the 2013 license fees for any hunting or fishing license issued to a resident age 16 or 17 by 50%, rounded to the next highest dollar (see § 5 for related changes).

By law, the DEEP commissioner must designate one day each year when no license is required for sport fishing. The bill authorizes him to designate up to two additional days each year when a one-day sport fishing license may be issued for free. The free license must be issued, at his discretion, to all members of the public or to certain age groups.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2013

§ 3 – HUNTING AND TRAPPING COURSES

The law requires the DEEP commissioner to develop and offer firearms hunting, archery hunting, and trapping instructional courses. He may designate any competent person or organization to give such instruction. The bill requires that the instruction include hands-on training in the handling of firearms or archery equipment.

Current law allows a person or organization providing instruction in trapping to charge a reasonable fee, but specifies that no fee will be charged for instruction in firearms or archery hunting. The bill instead requires that any hands-on training must be provided free to an applicant for a hunting or trapping license. But for any portion of the instruction that is not hands-on training, the applicant may choose either a (1) fee-based Internet instruction course the commissioner approves or (2) free instruction course from a person or organization the commissioner authorizes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2013

§ 4 – DEFINITION OF SNARE

The bill defines the term “snare” to mean a device, often consisting of a noose, used to kill or injure animals by entanglement, strangulation, or decapitation. The term is used throughout the hunting and trapping laws and the use of snares is prohibited in several sections (e.g., CGS §§ 26-72, 26-82, and 26-91). The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 5 – HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING FEES FOR MINORS

For 2013, the bill reduces any fee for hunting, trapping, or fishing permit, tag, or stamp for any resident who is under age 18 by 50% of the usual fee, rounded to the next highest dollar.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

§ 6 – TASK FORCE TO STUDY MOVING CONSERVATION FUNCTIONS

The bill establishes a 13-member task force to study whether to move the conservation functions described in Titles 23 and 26 of the general statutes from DEEP to DoAG. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Environment Committee by November 1, 2012. The task force terminates when it submits its report or on November 1, 2012, whichever is later.

The task force consists of (1) the DEEP and DoAG commissioners and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, or their designees, and (2) 10 appointed members. The governor, Senate president pro tempore, and House speaker each appoint two members. The Senate and House majority and minority leaders each appoint one member. The legislative leaders' appointees may be legislators. Appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill's effective date. A vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority.

The OPM secretary or his designee is the task force chairperson and must hold the first meeting within 60 days of the bill's effective date.

The Environment Committee's administrative staff serves as the task force's administrative staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 1 (03/23/2012)