



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5120

LCO No. 969

00969_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES,
IMPROVING SAFE HUNTING EDUCATION AND AMENDING
DEFINITIONS FOR THE WILDLIFE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.**

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2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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 Section 26-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the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.]

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 Section 26-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

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

124 (3) "Black bass" means [small mouth] smallmouth bass (*Micropterus*
125 *dolomieu*) and [large mouth] largemouth bass (*Micropterus*
126 *salmoides*).

127 (4) Repealed.

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

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

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

135 (8) "Commercial fishing gear" means any equipment commonly
136 used to take finfish, crustacea, sea scallops, squid, horseshoe crabs or
137 bait species for commercial purposes including, but not limited to,
138 lobster pots, otter trawls, beam trawls, balloon trawls, midwater
139 trawls, sea scallop dredges, scoop nets, scap nets, seines, trap nets, fyke
140 nets, crab traps, gill nets, trammel nets, set lines, long lines, hook and

141 line if such fishing is conducted for commercial purposes, minnow
142 seines, minnow traps, eel pots, fish pots, pound nets, throw nets or
143 similar devices and any equipment listed as commercial fishing gear in
144 regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Energy and
145 Environmental Protection.

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

150 (10) "Daily bag, catch or creel limit" means the quantity or number
151 of wildlife allowed to be taken during the period from 12:01 a.m. to
152 12:00 midnight as provided by this chapter or by regulations made by
153 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

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

155 (12) "Hunting" means pursuing, shooting, killing and capturing any
156 bird, quadruped or reptile and attempting to pursue, shoot, kill and
157 capture any bird, quadruped or reptile, whether such act results in
158 taking or not, including any act of assistance to any other person in
159 taking or attempting to take any such animal.

160 [(13) "Quadruped" means any four-legged animal which is ferae
161 naturae or wild by nature, although such animal may be enclosed and
162 considered a pet or semidomesticated, but shall exclude purely
163 domesticated animals.]

164 [(14)] (13) "Pickerel" means the chain pickerel (*Esox niger*), not the
165 dwarf species referred to variously as the banded pickerel (*Esox*
166 *americanus*), grass pike, grass pickerel, mud pike or brook pickerel.

167 [(15)] (14) "Private waters" means a natural or artificial pond or lake
168 to which the owner, not a corporation, partnership or voluntary
169 association, has exclusive right of access, of which water supply all
170 sources are located substantially within the property of the owner, to

171 which fish do not have access from waters not under the control of
172 such owner or from water stocked at the expense of the state, except
173 that a natural or artificial pond five acres or less in extent may be
174 owned by an individual, a corporation, partnership or voluntary
175 association and, when meeting the other requirements of this
176 subsection, such pond may be registered as private waters.

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

181 (16) "Seafood dealer" means (A) a person, firm or corporation, other
182 than the ultimate consumer, who purchases, ships, consigns, transfers,
183 transports, barter, accepts or packs lobsters, sea scallops, finfish,
184 crabs, including horseshoe crabs, or squid directly from a commercial
185 fisherman for resale, or (B) a commercial fisherman who sells, ships,
186 consigns, transfers or barter his or her own catch of such species to
187 anyone other than a seafood dealer.

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

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

193 [(18)] (19) "Sport fishing" means taking or attempting to take any
194 fish, crustacea, sea scallops, squid, horseshoe crabs or bait species
195 whether from salt, brackish or fresh water by any method other than
196 by commercial methods specified by law and regulations of the
197 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for
198 commercial purposes.

199 [(19)] (20) "Taking" means shooting, pursuing, hunting, fishing,
200 killing, capturing, trapping, snaring, hooking and netting any species

201 of wildlife and attempting to shoot, pursue, hunt, fish, kill, capture,
 202 trap, snare, hook, net or catch any species of wildlife or any act of
 203 assistance to any other person in taking or attempting to take such
 204 wildlife whether or not such act results in the capture of any such
 205 wildlife.

206 [(20)] (21) "Trapping" means pursuing, killing and capturing by use
 207 of any trap, snare, net or other device any bird or wild or domestic
 208 quadruped, excluding rats, mice, moles and reptiles, whether such act
 209 results in taking or not, including any act of assistance to any other
 210 person in taking or attempting to take any such animal by any such
 211 method.

212 [(21)] (22) "Trout and salmon" includes brook trout or speckled
 213 trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, lake trout, Atlantic salmon, kokanee
 214 or sockeye salmon, coho salmon, chinook salmon or any hybrid of any
 215 two or more of these species.

216 [(22)] (23) "Wildlife" means all species of invertebrates, fish,
 217 amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals which are ferae naturae or
 218 wild by nature.

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

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	October 1, 2012	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To promote participation in hunting and fishing and increase sales of licenses for said activities; to increase opportunities for prospective hunters to attend on-line education services provided by private vendors; to add the definition of "snare" to section 26-1 of the general statutes; and to make technical changes.

[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.]