



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

**Raised Bill No. 5376**

LCO No. 1609

\*01609\_\_\_\_\_PS\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:  
(PS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTABLES FOR FISH AND GAME PROTECTION AND THE POSSESSION OF FIREARMS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-6a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

3 (a) The chief executive authority of any town, city or borough, with  
4 the consent and approval of the police commission of such town, city  
5 or borough, if any, otherwise the chief of police, if any, may appoint  
6 and administer the oath of office to special officers to be known as  
7 constables for fish and game protection, whose duties shall be limited  
8 to the enforcement, in the municipality of their appointment, of state  
9 and local fish and game laws and regulations issued by the  
10 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, any local  
11 ordinance relating to hunting, fishing and trapping and any provision  
12 of section 53-205 or 53a-109. Before entering upon the duties of their  
13 office, such officers shall post any bond which may be required for  
14 constables by such town, city or borough and shall successfully  
15 complete a basic police training course that is tailored to the duties to

16 be performed by such officers and provided by a police officer of the  
17 police department of such town, city or borough who is certified under  
18 the provisions of subsection (a) of section 7-294d. In order to carry a  
19 firearm in the course of their duties, such officers shall be certified by a  
20 firearms trainer of such police department and comply with the same  
21 requirements for periodic recertification that are applicable to regular  
22 sworn members of such department. Any person so appointed shall  
23 serve without compensation and shall be subject to such rules and  
24 regulations governing conduct as such chief executive authority deems  
25 necessary. Each such officer shall, within twenty-four hours, report all  
26 arrests made by him to the chief executive authority or a person  
27 designated by such authority. Such authority or the person so  
28 designated shall, within twenty-four hours thereafter, report such  
29 arrests to a district supervisor or conservation officer of the  
30 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. All such  
31 constables for fish and game protection shall perform their duties  
32 under the supervision of, and be responsible to, such chief executive  
33 authority. Any such officer may be removed from office at any time by  
34 such authority or the chief of police upon approval of a majority of the  
35 police commission, if any. The commissioner shall cooperate with local  
36 officials in the instruction of such special officers and shall formulate  
37 and conduct a training seminar once annually for constables appointed  
38 pursuant to this section, which seminar shall be completed by any such  
39 constable prior to entering upon the duties of his office.

40 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection  
41 shall request that the chief executive authority of a town, city or  
42 borough appoint constables pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
43 when the commissioner has received written reports of violations in  
44 such town, city or borough of the regulations for hunting in proximity  
45 to buildings occupied by persons or domestic animals or used for  
46 storage of flammable or combustible materials or the regulations for  
47 shooting towards persons, buildings or animals.

48 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 7-294d of the 2012 supplement to the

49 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
50 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

51 (f) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1) any state  
52 police training school or program, (2) any sworn member of the  
53 Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services  
54 and Public Protection, (3) Connecticut National Guard security  
55 personnel, when acting within the scope of their National Guard  
56 duties, who have satisfactorily completed a program of police training  
57 conducted by the United States Army or Air Force, (4) employees of  
58 the Judicial Department, (5) municipal animal control officers  
59 appointed pursuant to section 22-331, [or] (6) fire police appointed  
60 pursuant to section 7-313a, or (7) constables for fish and game  
61 protection appointed pursuant to section 26-6a, as amended by this act.  
62 The provisions of this section with respect to renewal of certification  
63 upon satisfactory completion of review training programs shall not  
64 apply to any chief inspector or inspector in the Division of Criminal  
65 Justice who has satisfactorily completed a program of police training  
66 conducted by the division. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
67 subsection (b) of this section, any police officer certified in accordance  
68 with subsection (a) of this section may accept employment with  
69 another police department within this state without repeating  
70 minimum basic training.

71 Sec. 3. Section 53a-217b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
72 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

73 (a) A person is guilty of possession of a weapon on school grounds  
74 when, knowing that such person is not licensed or privileged to do so,  
75 such person possesses a firearm or deadly weapon, as defined in  
76 section 53a-3, (1) in or on the real property comprising a public or  
77 private elementary or secondary school, or (2) at a school-sponsored  
78 activity as defined in subsection (h) of section 10-233a.

79 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to  
80 the otherwise lawful possession of a firearm (1) by a person for use in a

81 program approved by school officials in or on such school property or  
82 at such school-sponsored activity, (2) by a person in accordance with  
83 an agreement entered into between school officials and such person or  
84 such person's employer, (3) by a peace officer, as defined in  
85 subdivision (9) of section 53a-3, [while engaged in the performance of  
86 such peace officer's official duties,] or (4) by a person while traversing  
87 such school property for the purpose of gaining access to public or  
88 private lands open to hunting or for other lawful purposes, provided  
89 such firearm is not loaded and the entry on such school property is  
90 permitted by the local or regional board of education.

91 (c) Possession of a weapon on school grounds is a class D felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2012	26-6a
Sec. 2	October 1, 2012	7-294d(f)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2012	53a-217b

**Statement of Purpose:**

To permit municipal constables for fish and game protection to perform their duties after receiving abbreviated training from a certified officer at their local police department and to authorize peace officers to possess firearms on school grounds while off duty.

*[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.]*