



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 515

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6654

House of Representatives, April 15, 2013

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GENTILE of the 104th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SPORTSMEN RELATED REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Energy and
2 Environmental Protection shall provide for the purchase of a lottery
3 permit, at a fee of ten dollars, that allows the permittee to participate in
4 a lottery for the opportunity to receive a license, at a fee of two
5 hundred dollars, to hunt bear in a location and by a method of take
6 designated by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
7 Protection. Such designated location shall coincide with the
8 department's deer management zones.

9 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy
10 and Environmental Protection may, upon application and payment of
11 a fee of fifty dollars for in-state guides and one hundred dollars for
12 out-of-state guides, register any person to conduct hunting or fishing
13 guide services. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in
14 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, concerning the

15 administration of and requirements for such guide services.

16 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-303 of the general statutes is
17 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
18 *passage*):

19 (a) The authority in charge of any building or property owned,
20 operated or leased by the state or any municipality therein shall grant
21 to the Department of Rehabilitation Services a permit to operate in
22 such building or on such property a food service facility, a vending
23 machine or a stand for the vending of newspapers, periodicals,
24 confections, tobacco products, food and such other articles as such
25 authority approves when, in the opinion of such authority, such
26 facility, machine or stand is desirable in such location. Any person
27 operating such a stand in any such location on October 1, 1945, shall be
28 permitted to continue such operation, but upon such person's ceasing
29 such operation such authority shall grant a permit for continued
30 operation to the Department of Rehabilitation Services. The
31 department may establish a training facility at any such location. The
32 requirements of this subsection shall not apply to any state park or
33 forest under the custody and control of the Commissioner of Energy
34 and Environmental Protection.

35 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy
36 and Environmental Protection shall issue a request for proposals for
37 the operation of the food service facilities located in the state parks and
38 forests under the custody and control of the commissioner. In
39 awarding any contract for the operation of such food service facilities,
40 the commissioner shall award such contract to the highest responsible
41 bidder. Nothing in this section or section 10-303 of the general statutes,
42 as amended by this act, shall be construed to prohibit the Board of
43 Education and Services for the Blind from bidding on any contract
44 authorized pursuant to this section.

45 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 26-27 of the general statutes is
46 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
47 *passage*):

48 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), (c), (e), (f), (g) or (h) of this
49 section and other provisions of this chapter providing specific license
50 exemption, no person shall take, hunt or trap, or shall attempt to take,
51 hunt or trap, or assist in taking, hunting or trapping, any wild bird or
52 mammal and no person [more than] sixteen years of age or older shall
53 take, attempt to take, or assist in taking any fish or bait species in the
54 inland waters or marine district by any method or land marine fish
55 and bait species in the state, regardless of where such marine fish or
56 bait species are taken, without first having obtained a license as
57 provided in this chapter. No person under sixteen years of age shall
58 hunt or trap, except as provided in section 26-38.

59 Sec. 6. Section 26-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

61 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), ~~[and]~~ (c) and (d) of this
62 section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping and
63 sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as follows:
64 (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2) resident
65 fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine waters fishing
66 license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters fishing license,
67 five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license, thirty-two dollars;
68 (6) resident combination license to fish in inland waters and firearms
69 hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination license to fish in
70 marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars; (8) resident
71 combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, [thirty-
72 eight] forty dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all waters
73 and bow and arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued
74 pursuant to section 26-86c, sixty-five dollars; (10) resident firearms
75 super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, firearms
76 private land shotgun or rifle deer permit issued pursuant to section 26-
77 86a, and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on
78 private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, [eighty] seventy dollars;
79 (11) resident archery super sport license to fish in all waters, bow and
80 arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued pursuant to section
81 26-86c and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on

82 private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-two dollars; (12)
83 resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms
84 hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer permit, muzzleloader
85 private land deer permit, pursuant to section 26-86 and private land
86 permit to hunt wild turkey during spring season pursuant to section
87 26-48a, eighty-four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to
88 fish in all waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation
89 stamp, and migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), [~~sixty~~] fifty dollars;
90 (14) resident trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior
91 trapping license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars;
92 (16) junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident
93 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland
94 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters
95 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two
96 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;
97 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three
98 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing
99 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to
100 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)
101 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
102 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to
103 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)
104 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. Persons sixty-
105 five years of age and over who have been residents of this state for not
106 less than one year and who meet the requirements of subsection (b) of
107 section 26-31 may be issued an annual license to firearms hunt or to
108 fish or combination license to fish and firearms hunt or a license to trap
109 without fee. The issuing agency shall indicate on a combination license
110 the specific purpose for which such license is issued. The town clerk
111 shall retain a recording fee of one dollar for each license issued by him
112 or her.

113 (b) Any nonresident residing in one of the New England states or
114 the state of New York may procure a license to hunt or to fish or to
115 hunt and fish for the same fee or fees as a resident of this state if he or
116 she is a resident of a state the laws of which allow the same privilege to

117 residents of this state.

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

120 (d) For the period beginning on January 1, 2014, and ending on
121 December 31, 2014, the fee charged pursuant to this section for any
122 firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport fishing license
123 that is issued to any Connecticut resident who is sixteen or seventeen
124 years of age shall be equal to fifty per cent of the fee provided for such
125 license in subsection (a) of this section rounded to the next highest
126 dollar.

127 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the period beginning on
128 January 1, 2014, and ending on December 31, 2014, the fee charged
129 pursuant to section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a or 26-86c of the general
130 statutes for any firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport
131 fishing permit, tag or stamp that is issued to any Connecticut resident
132 who is less than twenty-one years of age shall be fifty per cent of the
133 fee 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>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-303(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	26-27(a)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	26-28
Sec. 7	<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 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Loss	Less than 70,000	Less than 70,000
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	Less than 50,000	Less than 50,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) sell bear hunt lottery permits for \$10 each. This permit allows a person to participate in a lottery for a bear hunting license. The \$200 bear hunting license will then allow the licensee to hunt bear where and in a manner that DEEP designates. As the agency does not anticipate establishing the bear hunt lottery before FY 16, there is no revenue gain anticipated in both FY 14 and FY 15.

The bill also allows DEEP to register hunting or fishing guide services. The fee for registering in-state guides is \$50 and the fee for registering out-of-state guides is \$100. This may also result in a revenue gain to DEEP, which is expected to be less than \$10,000 annually in both FY 14 and FY 15.

The bill requires the DEEP Commissioner to issue a request-for-proposals (RFP) for the operation of food service facilities at state parks and forests and requires the Commissioner to award the contract to the highest responsible bidder. Currently, an authority in charge of state owned, operated, or leased property must give the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) a permit to run a food service facility or

vendor stand there. The bill exempts from this requirement state parks and forests under DEEP's custody and control. However, the Board of Education and Services for the Blind may bid on the food service facility contracts authorized by the bill.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services - Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) currently has the right of first refusal to operate concessions stands through their Business Enterprise Program (BEP). The BEP is completely supported by a non-appropriated fund with income generated from vending machine revenue. In 2012 there were three managers who are blind operating concessions at Hammonasset Beach, Rocky Neck and Gillette's Castle. The agency receives no revenue from these operations only their clients do. The net profit of the operation becomes the gross personal income of the manager. Section 4 of the bill specifies that nothing prohibits the agency from bidding on the request for proposal issued by DEEP. As such, the fiscal impact to BESB or DEEP cannot be determined at this time.

In addition, the bill increases the fee, from \$38 to \$40, for the resident all-waters fishing and firearms hunting license. In FY 12, DEEP issued 21,535 of these licenses generating \$818,396 in revenue. Thus, this would generate approximately \$43,000 in additional revenue for the agency.

The bill also reduces the fee by half, for hunting, trapping and fishing licenses for residents aged 16 and 17 by 50%. The reduction is limited to January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014. This is anticipated to result in a revenue loss of between \$37,000 - \$55,500 in FY 14 and FY 15.

Additionally, the bill decreases the fee charged for related permits, tags, and stamps by 50% for the same time period but does so for Connecticut residents aged 16 through 20. This provision is expected to result in a revenue loss of less than \$20,000 in both FY 14 and FY 15.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the results of future RFP's, and the number of licenses sold.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6654*****AN ACT CONCERNING SPORTSMEN RELATED REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill:

1. requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to sell bear hunt lottery permits that allow permittees to participate in a lottery to receive a bear hunt license;
2. authorizes the DEEP commissioner to register hunting or fishing guide services;
3. requires the commissioner to issue a request for proposal (RFP) for operating food service facilities at state parks and forests and award the contract to the highest responsible bidder;
4. lowers the age requirement for obtaining a fishing license from over age 16 to age 16; and
5. changes certain hunting and fishing license fees, including reducing fees for 2014 by 50% for state residents under age 21.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 1 — BEAR HUNTING LOTTERY

The bill requires DEEP to sell bear hunt lottery permits for \$10 each. Under the bill, a lottery permit allows a person to participate in a lottery for a bear hunting license. The license costs \$200 and allows the licensee to hunt bear where and in a manner that the DEEP commissioner designates. The designated location must coincide with

DEEP's deer management zones. (The commissioner has not designated a bear hunting season. Currently, it is illegal to hunt bear in Connecticut.)

§ 2 — HUNTING OR FISHING GUIDES

The bill authorizes the commissioner to register hunting or fishing guide services. Individuals must apply to be registered and pay a \$50 or \$100 fee if they are an in-state guide or out-of-state guide, respectively. The bill authorizes the commissioner to adopt regulations concerning the administration of, and requirements for, guide services. (Current law does not regulate hunting or fishing guides in Connecticut.)

§§ 3 & 4 — CONCESSIONS AT STATE PARKS AND FORESTS

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner to issue a RFP for the operation of food service facilities at state parks and forests. He must award the contract to the highest responsible bidder.

By law, an authority in charge of state owned, operated, or leased property must give the Department of Rehabilitation Services a permit to run a food service facility or vendor stand there, when such a facility or stand would be desirable. The bill exempts from this requirement state parks and forests under DEEP's custody and control. The bill specifies that the Board of Education and Services for the Blind may bid on the food service facility contracts it authorizes.

§ 5 — FISHING LICENSE AGE REQUIREMENT

Current law requires people over age 16 to obtain a license before they may fish legally. (People under this age may fish legally without a license.) The bill lowers the age requirement for a fishing license to age 16.

§§ 6 & 7 — 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 Table 1 shows.

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 reduces the 2014 fees by 50%, rounded to the next highest dollar, for any hunting, trapping, or sport fishing license issued to a resident who is age 16 or 17. It also reduces the 2014 permit, tag, or stamp fees by 50%, rounded to the next highest dollar, for taking waterfowl, salmon, pheasant, turkey, migratory game birds, deer, or small game by a resident who is under age 21.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 9 (03/27/2013)