



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 816

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1011

Senate, May 14, 2013

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through SEN. FONFARA of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN USER FEES AT STATE PARKS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-26 of the general statutes is amended by adding
2 subsection (e) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

3 (NEW) (e) For special events of limited duration at state parks,
4 including, but not limited to, weddings and receptions, that are paid
5 for on or after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Energy and
6 Environmental Protection shall establish special event user fees for
7 nonresidents and residents of this state in amounts not greater than
8 one hundred thirty-five per cent of the amounts charged for such user
9 fees by said commissioner as of June 1, 2013.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	23-26
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FIN *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: See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes special event user fees for nonresidents and residents in amounts not greater than 135% of the amounts charged for such user fees by the commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) as of June 1, 2013.

The bill is unclear as to the percentage increase for special event user fees. It appears to authorize the DEEP commissioner to set these fees at any level with a ceiling of 135% of the current fee.

Therefore the bill could result in a revenue loss of \$402,000 if no fees were set, or a revenue gain of \$542,700 as stated in the original fiscal note. It should be noted that a 35% increase would yield \$140,700 annually.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact described above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of special events held.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1011*****AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN USER FEES AT STATE PARKS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the energy and environmental protection commissioner to establish state park special event user fees that are up to 135% of the fees charged as of June 1, 2013 for special events of limited duration (e.g., weddings and receptions). It specifies that the new fees apply to those paid on or after July 1, 2013.

By law, such fees must be deposited into the "maintenance, repair, and improvement account" within the General Fund, unless the commissioner specifically agrees otherwise (CGS § 23-15b). Account funds are used to make improvements to state parks.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

The Senate referred the bill (File 489) to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, which reported a substitute that applies the new state park special event user fees to those fees paid on or after July 1, 2013.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 1 (03/25/2013)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 42 Nay 8 (05/06/2013)