



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**Amendment**

LCO No. 7547

**\*HB0653807547HDO\***

Offered by:

REP. GENTILE, 104<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. ALBIS, 99<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. SHABAN, 135<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. MEYER, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. CHAPIN, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6538

File No. 329

Cal. No. 229

**"AN ACT CONCERNING ARBORISTS AND TREE WARDENS."**

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- 1 Strike section 9 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:
- 2 "Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) Not later than one year
- 3 after appointment or reappointment as a tree warden, pursuant to
- 4 section 23-58 of the general statutes, such tree warden shall
- 5 successfully complete coursework, as approved by the Commissioner
- 6 of Energy and Environmental Protection. The minimum requirements
- 7 for such coursework shall include: Tree biology, tree maintenance and
- 8 pruning, urban forest management and tree laws. The commissioner
- 9 may administer such coursework or may, in the commissioner's sole
- 10 discretion, delegate responsibility to administer such coursework to a
- 11 professional or educational organization capable of providing such
- 12 training.

13 (b) In the event that a tree warden fails to comply with the  
14 provisions of subsection (a) of this section, such tree warden shall not  
15 be eligible for reappointment pursuant to section 23-58 of the general  
16 statutes.

17 (c) Upon written request to the Commissioner of Energy and  
18 Environmental Protection by the chief elected official of the  
19 municipality that appointed a tree warden, a six-month extension of  
20 time may be granted for the purpose of the completion of the  
21 coursework required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

22 (d) Each tree warden shall maintain a record of the completion of  
23 the coursework required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and,  
24 upon request, furnish such records to the commissioner or the  
25 commissioner's designee, and the chief elected official of the  
26 municipality that appointed such tree warden.

27 (e) (1) Any tree warden who successfully completes the Tree  
28 Wardens Association of Connecticut coursework prior to the effective  
29 date of this section shall be deemed by the Commissioner of Energy  
30 and Environmental Protection to have successfully completed the  
31 coursework required by this section, provided not later than December  
32 31, 2013, a duly authorized officer of the Tree Wardens Association of  
33 Connecticut certifies to the commissioner and to the chief elected  
34 official of the municipality that appointed such tree warden, in  
35 writing, that such tree warden has successfully completed the Tree  
36 Wardens Association of Connecticut coursework.

37 (2) The successful completion of the Tree Wardens Association of  
38 Connecticut coursework prior to the effective date of this section by a  
39 deputy tree warden appointed pursuant to section 23-58 of the general  
40 statutes shall be deemed by the commissioner to satisfy the  
41 requirements of subsection (a) of this section, provided not later than  
42 December 31, 2013, a duly authorized officer of the Tree Wardens  
43 Association of Connecticut certifies to the commissioner and to the  
44 chief elected official of the municipality that appointed such deputy

45 tree warden, in writing, that such deputy tree warden has successfully  
46 completed the Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut coursework.

47 (3) The requirements of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply  
48 to any tree warden who: (A) Is an arborist licensed by the  
49 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or (B)  
50 appoints a deputy tree warden who successfully completes the  
51 coursework required by subsection (a) of this section, who meets the  
52 requirements of subdivision (2) of this subsection or who is an arborist  
53 licensed by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
54 Protection.

55 (f) The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may charge a  
56 reasonable fee to cover the costs associated with the coursework  
57 required pursuant to this section. In the event a tree warden is a  
58 volunteer, the municipality that appointed such tree warden shall pay  
59 the cost of such required coursework.

60 Sec. 10. Section 23-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
61 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

62 The selectmen of each town, except those having cities with  
63 coextensive boundaries within their limits, which cities have an officer  
64 with similar duties to those of a tree warden who in fact assumes  
65 control of all the territory embraced within their limits, and the warden  
66 or burgesses of each borough shall, within thirty days of their election,  
67 appoint a town or borough tree warden, as the case may be. Such tree  
68 wardens shall be appointed for the term of [one year] two years and  
69 until their successors are appointed and have qualified. Any tree  
70 warden may appoint such number of deputy tree wardens as [he] said  
71 warden deems expedient and [he] said warden may, at any time,  
72 remove [them] any such deputy tree warden from office. A town or  
73 borough tree warden and [his] such warden's deputies shall receive for  
74 their services such reasonable compensation, from the town or  
75 borough, as the town or borough may determine or, in default of such  
76 determination, as the selectmen or borough warden prescribes."