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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6654**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SPORTSMEN RELATED REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill:

1. authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to register hunting and fishing guide services;
2. lowers the age requirement for obtaining a fishing license from over age 16 to age 16; and
3. 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 — HUNTING OR FISHING GUIDES**

The bill authorizes the DEEP commissioner to register hunting and 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.)

#### **§ 2 — 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.

**§§ 3 & 4 — 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.

**BACKGROUND*****Legislative History***

The House referred the bill (File 515) to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, which reported out a substitute that removes provisions that require DEEP to (1) sell bear hunt lottery permits that allow permittees to participate in a lottery to receive a bear hunt license and (2) issue a request for proposals for operating food service facilities at state parks and forests and award the contract to the highest responsible bidder.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 9 (03/27/2013)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 46 Nay 4 (05/01/2013)