



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 776

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6654

House of Representatives, May 8, 2013

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. WIDLITZ of the 98th 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. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of
2 Energy and Environmental Protection may, upon application and
3 payment of a fee of fifty dollars for in-state guides and one hundred
4 dollars for out-of-state guides, register any person to conduct hunting
5 or fishing guide services. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in
6 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, concerning the
7 administration of and requirements for such guide services.

8 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 26-27 of the general statutes is
9 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
10 *passage*):

11 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), (c), (e), (f), (g) or (h) of this
12 section and other provisions of this chapter providing specific license

13 exemption, no person shall take, hunt or trap, or shall attempt to take,
14 hunt or trap, or assist in taking, hunting or trapping, any wild bird or
15 mammal and no person [more than] sixteen years of age or older shall
16 take, attempt to take, or assist in taking any fish or bait species in the
17 inland waters or marine district by any method or land marine fish
18 and bait species in the state, regardless of where such marine fish or
19 bait species are taken, without first having obtained a license as
20 provided in this chapter. No person under sixteen years of age shall
21 hunt or trap, except as provided in section 26-38.

22 Sec. 3. Section 26-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

24 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), [and] (c) and (d) of this
25 section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping and
26 sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as follows:
27 (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2) resident
28 fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine waters fishing
29 license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters fishing license,
30 five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license, thirty-two dollars;
31 (6) resident combination license to fish in inland waters and firearms
32 hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination license to fish in
33 marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars; (8) resident
34 combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, [thirty-
35 eight] forty dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all waters
36 and bow and arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued
37 pursuant to section 26-86c, sixty-five dollars; (10) resident firearms
38 super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, firearms
39 private land shotgun or rifle deer permit issued pursuant to section 26-
40 86a, and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on
41 private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, [eighty] seventy dollars;
42 (11) resident archery super sport license to fish in all waters, bow and
43 arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued pursuant to section
44 26-86c and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on
45 private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-two dollars; (12)
46 resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms

47 hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer permit, muzzleloader
48 private land deer permit, pursuant to section 26-86 and private land
49 permit to hunt wild turkey during spring season pursuant to section
50 26-48a, eighty-four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to
51 fish in all waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation
52 stamp, and migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), [sixty] fifty dollars;
53 (14) resident trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior
54 trapping license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars;
55 (16) junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident
56 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland
57 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters
58 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two
59 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;
60 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three
61 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing
62 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to
63 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)
64 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
65 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to
66 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)
67 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. Persons sixty-
68 five years of age and over who have been residents of this state for not
69 less than one year and who meet the requirements of subsection (b) of
70 section 26-31 may be issued an annual license to firearms hunt or to
71 fish or combination license to fish and firearms hunt or a license to trap
72 without fee. The issuing agency shall indicate on a combination license
73 the specific purpose for which such license is issued. The town clerk
74 shall retain a recording fee of one dollar for each license issued by him
75 or her.

76 (b) Any nonresident residing in one of the New England states or
77 the state of New York may procure a license to hunt or to fish or to
78 hunt and fish for the same fee or fees as a resident of this state if he or
79 she is a resident of a state the laws of which allow the same privilege to
80 residents of this state.

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

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

90 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the period beginning on
91 January 1, 2014, and ending on December 31, 2014, the fee charged
92 pursuant to section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a or 26-86c of the general
93 statutes for any firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport
94 fishing permit, tag or stamp that is issued to any Connecticut resident
95 who is less than twenty-one years of age shall be fifty per cent of the
96 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>	26-27(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	26-28
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

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:

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 allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (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 would result in a revenue gain to DEEP, which is expected to be less than \$10,000 annually in both FY 14 and FY 15.

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. 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 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. 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)