

## **AGENCY FISCAL ESTIMATE OF PROPOSED REGULATION**

**Agency Submitting Regulation:** Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) **Date:** August 9, 2012

**Subject Matter of Regulation:** Hunting and Trapping

**Regulation Sections No.:** RCSA 26-16-3a, 26-27b-1, 26-48a-3, 26-48-7, 26-49-2, 26-52-1, 26-55-3, 26-66-1, 26-66-2, 26-66-3, 26-66-4, 26-66-5, 26-66-12, 26-66-14, 26-86a-1, 26-86a-2, 26-86a-4 and 26-86a-6.

**Statutory Authority:** CGS 26-16, 26-27b, 26-48, 26-48a, 26-49, 26-52, 26-55, 26-66 and 26-86a

**Other Agencies Effected:** None

**Effective Date Used In Cost Estimate:** August 9, 2012

**Estimate Prepared By:** Rick Jacobson **Telephone No.:** 860-424-3482

## **ESTIMATE OF COST OR REVENUE IMPACT OF PROPOSED REGULATION**

**Agency:** Energy and Environmental Protection **Fund Effected:** N/A

	<b>First Year</b>	<b>Second Year</b>	<b>Full Operation</b>
<b>Number of Positions</b>	0	0	0
<b>Personal Services</b>	(\$6,952)	(\$6,952)	(\$6,952)
<b>Other Expenses</b>	(\$400)	(\$400)	(\$400)
<b>Equipment</b>	(\$1606)	(\$1606)	(\$1606)
<b>Grants</b>	0	0	0
<b>Total State Cost or (Savings)</b>	(\$8,958)	(\$8,958)	(\$8,958)
<b>Estimated Revenue Gain or (Loss)</b>	\$49,850	\$49,850	\$49,850
<b>Total Net State Cost or (Savings)</b>	(\$58,808)	(\$58,808)	(\$58,808)

### **Explanation of State Impact of Regulation:**

These regulations will result in an estimated total net savings to the state of \$58,808.

The elimination of agency supplied harvest tags for game birds taken in conjunction with activities on private shooting preserves, dog training areas and during shooting field dog trials will result in a loss of approximately \$4,188 in revenue derived from sales of the special activity tags, which are issued in addition to permit fees collected by the agency. Savings to the agency includes the cost of purchasing the tags from an outside vendor (\$1,606 for 21,000 tags) and decreasing staff time involved in processing permit requests, estimated to be the equivalent of .10 full time staff or \$6,952. Permit processing efficiencies will reduce or eliminate the need for mailing permits, and without tags, permits can be distributed electronically. Reduced mailing costs would represent an additional savings of approximately \$400, based upon the number of permits issued annually.

Expanding the use of crossbow equipment for all hunters will effectively eliminate administration of the current crossbow permit system limiting use to certain individuals with a permanent disability which prevents use of a compound or long bow. Current crossbow authorizations are issued without fee after receipt and approval of a special application certified by a licensed physician. There are significant costs associated with processing of crossbow authorizations involving staff review, requests for supplemental information, final approvals, entering applicant data into the automated licensing system and various mailings and correspondence. This represents an estimated savings in staff time of approximately \$12,654. In addition, it is anticipated that sales of archery permits will increase by 10%, representing a revenue gain of \$54,038 (1318 permits @\$41 each). Crossbows are considered to be much easier to use and become proficient with and are especially popular among youth, women and older hunters.

**Explanation of Municipal Impact of Regulation:**

There is no anticipated impact to any municipality.

**Explanation of Small Business Impact of Regulation:**

It is expected that the proposed revisions to RCSA section 26-66-1(a) that adds crossbow equipment to the list of permitted hunting implements will have a positive effect on small businesses that sell crossbow equipment and accessories. The other proposed regulations will have no effect on small business.

**Is a regulatory flexibility analysis required pursuant to C.G.S. 4-168a?**

As there is no anticipated adverse impact to small business, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required.

**Small Business Impact Statement**

Prior to adopting a new section or amendment, Section 4-168a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) requires that each state agency consider the effect of such action on small businesses as defined in C.G.S. Section 4-168a. When such regulatory action may have an adverse effect on small businesses, C.G.S. Section 4-168a directs the agency to consider regulatory requirements that will minimize the adverse impacts on small businesses if the addition of such requirements (1) will not interfere with the intended objectives of the regulatory action and (2) will allow the new section or amendment to remain consistent with public health, safety and welfare.

State Agency submitting proposed regulations: Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Subject matter of Regulation: Hunting and Trapping

RCSA 26-16-3a, 26-27b-1, 26-48a-3, 26-48-7, 26-49-2, 26-52-1, 26-55-3, 26-66-1, 26-66-2, 26-66-3, 26-66-4, 26-66-5, 26-66-12, 26-66-14, 26-86a-1, 26-86a-2, 26-86a-4 and 26-86a-6.

In accordance with C.G.S. Section 4-168a, staff analyzed the effect on small businesses of the proposed regulations and determined the following:

Check all appropriate boxes:

- The regulatory action will not have an effect on small businesses.
- The regulatory action will have an effect on small businesses, but will not have an adverse effect on such small businesses. **SEE EXPLANATION**

- The regulatory action may have an adverse effect on small businesses, and no alternative considered would be both as effective in achieving the purpose of the action and less burdensome to potentially effected small business. Alternatives considered include the following:
- (1) The establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
  - (2) The establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
  - (3) The consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
  - (4) The establishment of performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the new section or amendment; and
  - (5) The exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the new section or amendment.
- The regulatory action will have an adverse effect on small businesses that cannot be minimized in a manner that is consistent with public health, safety and welfare.

**Explanation:**

It is expected that the proposed revisions to RCSA section 26-66-1(a) that adds crossbow equipment to the list of permitted hunting implements will have a positive effect on small businesses that sell crossbow equipment and accessories. The other proposed regulations will have no effect on small business.

Has the State agency listed above notified the Department of Economic and Community Development of its intent to take the proposed action and completed the Agency Fiscal Estimate of Proposed Regulations?

The Department of Environmental Protection did not notify the Department of Economic and Community Development of its intent to take the proposed action because the action will not have an adverse impact on small businesses.