



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 34**

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 71

*Senate, March 18, 2014*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. MEYER of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR BOATING AND HUNTING SAFETY.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 15-140e of the 2014 supplement  
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in  
3 lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) A safe boating certificate shall be issued under subsection (a) of  
5 this section to any applicant regardless of age who provides proof that  
6 such applicant has: (1) Successfully completed a classroom or online  
7 course in safe boating operation approved by the Commissioner of  
8 Energy and Environmental Protection, which courses may include  
9 those offered by the United States Power Squadrons, Coast Guard  
10 Auxiliary or other organizations, or (2) successfully passed an  
11 equivalency examination testing knowledge of safe boating operation  
12 administered by the commissioner.

13 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 15-140f of the general statutes is

14 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
15 *passage*):

16 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection  
17 shall formulate classroom and online courses in safe boating operation.

18 Sec. 3. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 15-140j of the general  
19 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
20 (*Effective from passage*):

21 (c) A certificate of personal watercraft operation shall be issued  
22 under subsection (b) of this section to any applicant who provides  
23 proof that such applicant has: (1) Successfully completed a combined  
24 course in safe boating operation and safe personal watercraft handling  
25 approved by the commissioner, which courses include, but are not  
26 limited to, classroom or online courses offered by the United States  
27 Power Squadrons, Coast Guard Auxiliary or other similar  
28 organization, (2) been issued or has satisfied the requirements for  
29 issuance of a safe boating certificate and successfully completed a  
30 course in safe personal watercraft handling approved by the  
31 commissioner, which include, but are not limited to, classroom or  
32 online courses offered by the United States Power Squadrons, Coast  
33 Guard Auxiliary or other similar organization, or (3) successfully  
34 passed an equivalency examination testing knowledge of safe boating  
35 operation and safe personal watercraft handling administered by the  
36 commissioner.

37 (d) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with  
38 the provisions of chapter 54, establishing the content of classroom and  
39 online courses in safe personal watercraft handling. Such regulations  
40 may include provisions for examinations, issuance of certificates of  
41 personal watercraft operation and establishment of a reasonable fee for  
42 such course and examination and for the issuance of a certificate and  
43 duplicate certificate.

44 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 26-31 of the general statutes is  
45 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

46 *passage*):

47 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection  
 48 shall formulate conservation courses of instruction in safe trapping,  
 49 hunting and archery practices and the handling and use of traps and  
 50 hunting implements, including bow and arrow, for such persons as are  
 51 applying for a license to hunt with firearms or to hunt with bow and  
 52 arrow or trap for the first time and for minors who fall within the  
 53 provisions of section 26-38, and shall designate one or more competent  
 54 persons or organizations to give such instruction. Any person or  
 55 organization so designated shall give such instruction online or in a  
 56 classroom to any person requesting the same and shall, upon the  
 57 successful completion thereof, recommend to the commissioner  
 58 issuance of a certificate of completion to such person. Successful  
 59 completion of such instruction for hunting license applicants shall  
 60 include, but not be limited to, achieving a passing grade on an  
 61 examination formulated by the commissioner, which shall include  
 62 correctly stating in writing, or reciting orally, the regulations for  
 63 hunting in proximity to buildings occupied by persons or domestic  
 64 animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible materials and  
 65 the regulations for shooting towards persons, buildings or animals.  
 66 Any such person or organization may charge any person taking the  
 67 course of instruction in trapping a reasonable fee, established by  
 68 regulation adopted by the commissioner in accordance with chapter  
 69 54, to cover the cost of supplies, materials and equipment necessary for  
 70 such course of instruction. [No fee shall] A fee may be charged for a  
 71 course of instruction in hunting or archery.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	15-140e(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	15-140f(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	15-140j(c) and (d)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	26-31(a)

**ENV**      *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:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill requires online education classes to be provided for boating (including personal watercraft), hunting, trapping, and archery courses, in addition to classroom courses that are currently offered. The bill also allows anyone conducting certain online courses (hunting or archery) to charge a fee.

There may be a revenue gain associated with charging a fee for online education courses. However, it is expected that instructors for these courses will not be Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) employees, but will be provided by outside vendors.

It is anticipated that the bill will reduce the number of people taking classroom courses. However, this is not estimated to result in a fiscal impact to DEEP as the agency is reimbursed by federal Wildlife Restoration Funds for incurred expenses.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 71*****AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR BOATING AND HUNTING SAFETY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill (1) requires boating or hunting, trapping, and archery safety courses to be provided on-line or in a classroom and (2) allows personal watercraft safety courses to be provided on-line or in a classroom. Currently, the law permits the courses to be provided by any means, but regulations require boating safety courses to include at least eight hours of classroom instruction and personal watercraft safety courses to be conducted in a classroom (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 15-140f-1 and 15-140j-2).

The bill allows anyone authorized to conduct hunting or archery courses to charge a course fee. Current law prohibits such a fee, but allows instructors to charge a fee for trapping courses.

The bill requires the energy and environmental protection commissioner to develop on-line and classroom boating and hunting, trapping, and archery safety courses and permits him to adopt regulations to establish the content of on-line or classroom personal watercraft safety courses. Current law requires him to formulate courses generally and allows him to adopt regulations to develop the content of any personal watercraft safety courses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Related Bill***

sSB 241, which the Environment Committee reported favorably, similarly (1) requires hunting, trapping, and archery safety courses to

be provided on-line or in a classroom and (2) allows anyone authorized to conduct hunting or archery courses to charge a course fee, but makes the changes effective October 1, 2014.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 7 (02/28/2014)