



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 66

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 241

Senate, March 19, 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 YOUTH HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES, REVISING CERTAIN HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES AND REQUIRING REGISTRATION BY HUNTING AND FISHING GUIDE SERVICES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-27 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), [or] (h) or (i)
4 of this section and other provisions of this chapter providing specific
5 license exemption, no person shall take, hunt or trap, or shall attempt
6 to take, hunt or trap, or assist in taking, hunting or trapping, any wild
7 bird or mammal and no person [more than] sixteen years of age or
8 older shall take, attempt to take, or assist in taking any fish or bait
9 species in the inland waters or marine district by any method or land
10 marine fish and bait species in the state, regardless of where such
11 marine fish or bait species are taken, without first having obtained a
12 license as provided in this chapter. No person under sixteen years of

13 age shall hunt or trap, except as provided in section 26-38.

14 (b) Any landowner who has a domiciliary residence in this state,
15 such landowner's spouse or lineal descendants may hunt, trap or fish
16 on land owned by such landowner or on land leased by such
17 landowner and on which such landowner is actually domiciled, which
18 land is not used for club, fishing or hunting purposes, without a
19 license, subject to the provisions of this chapter.

20 (c) No fishing license shall be required for any person who is rowing
21 a boat or operating the motor of a boat from which other persons are
22 taking or attempting to take fish.

23 (d) The taking of fish and bait species as herein provided shall be
24 regarded as sport fishing and the taking or landing of such species in
25 the inland waters or marine district by commercial methods for
26 commercial purposes shall be governed by other provisions of this
27 chapter.

28 (e) No fishing license shall be required for any resident of the state
29 who is participating in a fishing derby authorized in writing by the
30 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection provided (1)
31 no fees are charged for such derby, (2) such derby has a duration of
32 one day or less, and (3) such derby is sponsored by a nonprofit civic
33 service organization. Such organization shall be limited to one derby in
34 any calendar year.

35 (f) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
36 designate one day in each calendar year when no license shall be
37 required for sport fishing.

38 (g) No fishing license shall be required for any person who is fishing
39 as a passenger on a party boat, charter boat or head boat registered
40 under section 26-142a and operating solely in the marine district.

41 (h) No fishing license shall be required for any person who
42 participates in a fishing event conducted by an organization that
43 receives a group fishing license, as provided in subsection (h) of

44 section 26-30, provided any person who participates in such group
45 fishing event shall be subject to all other provisions of the general
46 statutes and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies that relate to
47 fishing.

48 (i) No fishing license shall be required for any student who attends a
49 secondary school located in this state when such student is
50 participating in a fishing event or field trip authorized, in writing, by
51 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection provided
52 (1) such fishing event or field trip is conducted by such secondary
53 school, (2) the purpose of such fishing event or field trip is to provide
54 instruction in fishing techniques, and (3) the fishing event or field trip
55 is a component of a course of instruction conducted by such secondary
56 school. Any secondary school that seeks to conduct such a fishing
57 event or field trip shall apply for authorization on a form prescribed by
58 the commissioner and shall provide such information as required by
59 the commissioner.

60 Sec. 2. Section 26-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the
61 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

62 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) [and (c)] to (f), inclusive, of
63 this section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping
64 and sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as
65 follows: (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2)
66 resident fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine
67 waters fishing license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters
68 fishing license, five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license,
69 thirty-two dollars; (6) resident combination license to fish in inland
70 waters and firearms hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination
71 license to fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars;
72 (8) resident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
73 [thirty-eight] forty dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all
74 waters and bow and arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued
75 pursuant to section 26-86c, sixty-five dollars; (10) resident firearms
76 super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, firearms

77 private land shotgun or rifle deer permit issued pursuant to section 26-
78 86a, and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on
79 private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, [eighty] seventy dollars;
80 (11) resident archery super sport license to fish in all waters, bow and
81 arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued pursuant to section
82 26-86c and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on
83 private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-two dollars; (12)
84 resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms
85 hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer permit, muzzleloader
86 private land deer permit, pursuant to section 26-86 and private land
87 permit to hunt wild turkey during spring season pursuant to section
88 26-48a, eighty-four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to
89 fish in all waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation
90 stamp, and migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), [sixty] fifty dollars;
91 (14) resident trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior
92 trapping license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars;
93 (16) junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident
94 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland
95 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters
96 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two
97 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;
98 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three
99 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing
100 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to
101 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)
102 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
103 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to
104 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)
105 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. Persons sixty-
106 five years of age and over who have been residents of this state for not
107 less than one year and who meet the requirements of subsection (b) of
108 section 26-31 may be issued an annual license to firearms hunt or to
109 fish or combination license to fish and firearms hunt or a license to trap
110 without fee. The issuing agency shall indicate on a combination license
111 the specific purpose for which such license is issued. The town clerk

112 shall retain a recording fee of one dollar for each license issued by
113 [him] such clerk.

114 (b) Any nonresident residing in one of the New England states or
115 the state of New York may procure a license to hunt or to fish or to
116 hunt and fish for the same fee or fees as a resident of this state if [he]
117 such nonresident is a resident of a state the laws of which allow the
118 same privilege to residents of this state.

119 (c) The fee for a group fishing license, as described in subsection (h)
120 of section 26-30, shall be [two hundred fifty] one hundred twenty-five
121 dollars.

122 (d) (1) The fee charged for any firearms hunting, archery hunting,
123 trapping or sport fishing license that is issued to any Connecticut
124 resident who is sixteen or seventeen years of age shall be equal to fifty
125 per cent of the fee provided for such license in subsection (a) of this
126 section, rounded to the next highest dollar.

127 (2) The fee charged pursuant to section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a or 26-
128 86c for any firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport
129 fishing permit, tag or stamp that is issued to any Connecticut resident
130 who is sixteen or seventeen years of age shall be equal to fifty per cent
131 of the fee provided for such permit, tag or stamp in said sections,
132 rounded to the next highest dollar.

133 (e) In addition to the calendar day designated pursuant to
134 subsection (f) of section 26-27, as amended by this act, the
135 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may designate
136 two additional days in each calendar year on which a one-day license
137 for sport fishing may be issued free of charge. The commissioner may
138 make such one-day license available to all members of the public or to
139 all members of an age group designated by said commissioner.

140 (f) From time to time and for the purpose of increasing
141 participation, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
142 Protection with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Office of Policy

143 and Management, may reduce, but not completely waive, the fee or
144 cost for any license, permit, tag or stamp, or combination thereof, as
145 provided for in this section, section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a or 26-86c.
146 Any such reduction shall: (1) Be for a portion of a calendar year, (2)
147 remain in effect only during the calendar year in which such reduction
148 is made, and (3) be made only if such reduction is provided to all
149 members of the public, to all members of a certain age group, or to
150 individuals who, in such calendar year, successfully complete a course
151 of instruction in fishing techniques, as provided for in section 26-31a or
152 a conservation education course of instruction, as provided for in
153 subsection (a) of section 26-31, as amended by this act.

154 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 26-31 of the general statutes is
155 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
156 *October 1, 2014*):

157 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
158 shall formulate conservation courses of instruction in safe trapping,
159 hunting and archery practices and the handling and use of traps and
160 hunting implements, including bow and arrow, for such persons as are
161 applying for a license to hunt with firearms or to hunt with bow and
162 arrow or trap for the first time and for minors who fall within the
163 provisions of section 26-38, and shall designate one or more competent
164 persons or organizations to give such instruction. Any person or
165 organization so designated shall give such instruction online or in a
166 classroom to any person requesting the same and shall, upon the
167 successful completion thereof, recommend to the commissioner
168 issuance of a certificate of completion to such person. Successful
169 completion of such instruction for hunting license applicants shall
170 include, but not be limited to, achieving a passing grade on an
171 examination formulated by the commissioner, which shall include
172 correctly stating in writing, or reciting orally, the regulations for
173 hunting in proximity to buildings occupied by persons or domestic
174 animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible materials and
175 the regulations for shooting towards persons, buildings or animals.
176 Any such person or organization may charge any person taking the

177 course of instruction in trapping a reasonable fee, established by
178 regulation adopted by the commissioner in accordance with chapter
179 54, to cover the cost of supplies, materials and equipment necessary for
180 such course of instruction. [No fee shall] A fee may be charged for a
181 course of instruction in hunting or archery.

182 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2015*) (a) No person shall conduct
183 hunting or fishing guide services in this state unless such person
184 registers with the Department of Energy and Environmental
185 Protection. Such registration shall be made on a form prescribed by the
186 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection provided such
187 form shall require the listing of such registrant's: (1) Name, (2)
188 residential address, (3) business address, (4) business telephone
189 number, and (5) services offered. The fee for such registration shall be
190 one hundred dollars. Each such registration shall be nontransferable
191 and shall expire on the last day of December next following the date of
192 issuance. For the purposes of this section, "hunting or fishing guide
193 services" means aiding, assisting or instructing any person in the
194 taking of fish or wildlife while in the fields, forests or on the waters of
195 the state in exchange for any form of remuneration.

196 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to
197 any user, operator or crew of any vessel registered as a charter boat,
198 party boat or head boat in accordance with the provisions of section
199 26-142a of the general statutes.

200 (c) Any person who provides hunting or fishing guide services that
201 entail the use of a vessel while taking or landing marine species shall
202 not have more than two customers in such vessel at any given time.

203 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
204 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of
205 the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

206 (e) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall have
207 committed an infraction and be fined not more than ninety dollars.

208 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 51-164n of the 2014 supplement to
209 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
210 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

211 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any
212 person who is alleged to have committed (1) a violation under the
213 provisions of section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35, 7-41, 7-83, 7-
214 283, 7-325, 7-393, 8-12, 8-25, 8-27, 9-63, 9-322, 9-350, 10-193, 10-197, 10-
215 198, 10-230, 10-251, 10-254, 12-52, 12-170aa, 12-292 or 12-326g,
216 subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of section
217 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-487, 13a-71, 13a-107, 13a-
218 113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-124, 13a-139, 13a-140, 13a-
219 143b, 13a-247 or 13a-253, subsection (f) of section 13b-42, section 13b-
220 90, 13b-221, 13b-292, 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or
221 13b-410c, subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414,
222 subsection (d) of section 14-12, section 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (e)
223 of section 14-34a, subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-49,
224 14-50a or 14-58, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a, 14-66b
225 or 14-67a, subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) of section 14-
226 80h, section 14-97a, 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-146, 14-152,
227 14-153 or 14-163b, a first violation as specified in subsection (f) of
228 section 14-164i, section 14-219 as specified in subsection (e) of said
229 section, subdivision (1) of section 14-223a, section 14-240, 14-249, 14-
230 250 or 14-253a, subsection (a) of section 14-261a, section 14-262, 14-264,
231 14-267a, 14-269, 14-270, 14-275a, 14-278 or 14-279, subsection (e) or (h)
232 of section 14-283, section 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa, 14-319, 14-320, 14-
233 321, 14-325a, 14-326, 14-330 or 14-332a, subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of
234 section 14-386a, section 15-25 or 15-33, subdivision (1) of section 15-97,
235 subsection (a) of section 15-115, section 16-44, 16-256e, 16a-15 or 16a-22,
236 subsection (a) or (b) of section 16a-22h, section 17a-24, 17a-145, 17a-149,
237 17a-152, 17a-465, 17a-642, 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-137 or 17b-734,
238 subsection (b) of section 17b-736, section 19a-30, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-
239 87, subsection (b) of section 19a-87a, section 19a-91, 19a-105, 19a-107,
240 19a-113, 19a-215, 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224, 19a-286, 19a-287, 19a-297,
241 19a-301, 19a-309, 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338, 19a-339, 19a-340, 19a-425,
242 19a-502, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-158, 20-231, 20-249, 20-257, 20-265, 20-324e, 20-

243 341l, 20-366, 20-597, 20-608, 20-610, 21-1, 21-30, 21-38, 21-39, 21-43, 21-
244 47, 21-48, 21-63 or 21-76a, subdivision (1) of section 21a-19, section 21a-
245 21, subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-25, section 21a-26 or
246 21a-30, subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section 21a-46, 21a-61, 21a-63
247 or 21a-77, subsection (b) of section 21a-79, section 21a-85 or 21a-154,
248 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-159, subsection (a) of
249 section 21a-279a, section 22-12b, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-29, 22-34,
250 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39, 22-39a, 22-39b, 22-39c, 22-39d, 22-39e, 22-49,
251 22-54, 22-61, 22-89, 22-90, 22-98, 22-99, 22-100, 22-111o, 22-167, 22-279,
252 22-280a, 22-318a, 22-320h, 22-324a, 22-326 or 22-342, subsection (b), (e)
253 or (f) of section 22-344, section 22-359, 22-366, 22-391, 22-413, 22-414,
254 22-415, 22a-66a or 22a-246, subsection (a) of section 22a-250, subsection
255 (e) of section 22a-256h, section 22a-363 or 22a-381d, subsections (c) and
256 (d) of section 22a-381e, section 22a-449, 22a-461, 23-37, 23-38, 23-46 or
257 23-61b, subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 23-
258 65, section 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43, section 25-
259 43d, 25-135, 26-16, 26-18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-49,
260 26-54, 26-55, 26-56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of
261 section 26-61, section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76, section 26-
262 79, 26-87, 26-89, 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-107, 26-
263 117, 26-128, 26-131, 26-132, 26-138 or 26-141, section 4 of this act,
264 subdivision (1) of section 26-186, section 26-207, 26-215, 26-217 or 26-
265 224a, subdivision (1) of section 26-226, section 26-227, 26-230, 26-232,
266 26-244, 26-257a, 26-260, 26-276, 26-284, 26-285, 26-286, 26-288, 26-294,
267 28-13, 29-6a, 29-25, 29-109, 29-143o, 29-143z or 29-156a, subsection (b),
268 (d), (e) or (g) of section 29-161q, section 29-161y or 29-161z, subdivision
269 (1) of section 29-198, section 29-210, 29-243 or 29-277, subsection (c) of
270 section 29-291c, section 29-316, 29-318, 29-381, 30-48a, 30-86a, 31-3, 31-
271 10, 31-11, 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23, 31-24, 31-25, 31-
272 32, 31-36, 31-38, 31-38a, 31-40, 31-44, 31-47, 31-48, 31-51, 31-51k, 31-52,
273 31-52a or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c) of section 31-69, section 31-70, 31-
274 74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-134, subsection (i) of section 31-
275 273, section 31-288, subdivision (1) of section 35-20, section 36a-787, 42-
276 230, 45a-283, 45a-450, 45a-634 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of
277 section 46a-54, section 46a-59, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 47-34a, 47-47, 49-

278 8a, 49-16, 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-264, 53-280, 53-
 279 302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-321, 53-322, 53-323, 53-331, 53-344 or 53-450,
 280 or (2) a violation under the provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a violation
 281 of any regulation adopted in accordance with the provisions of section
 282 12-484, 12-487 or 13b-410, or (4) a violation of any ordinance,
 283 regulation or bylaw of any town, city or borough, except violations of
 284 building codes and the health code, for which the penalty exceeds
 285 ninety dollars but does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars, unless
 286 such town, city or borough has established a payment and hearing
 287 procedure for such violation pursuant to section 7-152c, shall follow
 288 the procedures set forth in this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	26-27
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	26-28
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	26-31(a)
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	51-164n(b)

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	At least 12,000	At least 12,000
Judicial Dept. ¹	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Less than 500	Less than 500
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	At least 60,000	At Least 60,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill alters various hunting and fishing laws that are anticipated to result in the fiscal impacts described below:

Section 1 does not result in a fiscal impact. This section exempts high school students participating in school fishing events or certain field trips from the fishing license requirement. As there are no such groups currently obtaining fishing licenses, no fiscal impact is anticipated. **Section 1** also requires 16 year olds to obtain a fishing license. This will not result in a fiscal impact as it conforms statute to current practice.

Section 2 adjusts the fees for various hunting and fishing licenses. A revenue gain to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) of approximately \$45,000 is anticipated annually, as the bill raises the cost of the all-waters fishing license and firearms combination license, from \$38 to \$40. There were 22,420 of these

¹ Statutory violations are subject to Infractions Bureau procedures which allow the accused to pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

licenses sold in FY 13.

In addition, **Section 2** reduces fees charged to 16 and 17 year olds for certain sportsmens' licenses. This is anticipated to result in a revenue loss to DEEP of approximately \$12,000 annually.

Similarly, this section allows the DEEP commissioner to offer reduced fees for certain sportsmens' licenses in order to increase participation in these activities. This may result in a revenue loss to DEEP which may be offset by increased revenue from an increased number of licenses sold.

Section 3 requires instructors to offer certain sportsmens' safety courses online or in a classroom. It is anticipated that this requirement would reduce the number of people taking classroom courses. As DEEP is refunded for expenses incurred for classroom courses by federal Wildlife Restoration Funds, this is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

Section 4 requires people providing hunting or fishing guide services to pay a registration fee of \$100 to DEEP. It is estimated that 150 guides will register, resulting in a revenue gain to DEEP of approximately \$15,000 annually. Any violations are fined \$90 or less for each infraction. This could result in a revenue gain to the state of less than \$500 annually as there are expected to be less than five violations annually.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to (1) the number of licenses issued, (2) any change in fees, (3) the number of guides that register, and (4) the number of violations that occur.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 241*****AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES, REVISING CERTAIN HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES AND REQUIRING REGISTRATION BY HUNTING AND FISHING GUIDE SERVICES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes various changes to the state's hunting and fishing statutes. Among other things, it:

1. requires a 16-year-old to obtain a fishing license in order to fish in Connecticut waters, to conform to current licensing practices;
2. exempts from the fishing license requirement secondary school students participating in school fishing events or field trips that teach fishing techniques;
3. changes certain hunting and fishing license fees, including reducing specific fees by 50% for 16- and 17-year-old residents;
4. allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to designate up to two days each calendar year when it can issue free one-day sport fishing licenses;
5. allows DEEP, with the Office of Policy and Management's (OPM) approval, to occasionally offer reduced fees for hunting and fishing licenses and permits;
6. requires instructors to offer hunting, trapping, and archery safety courses on-line or in a classroom and allows them to charge a course fee;
7. requires people providing hunting or fishing guide services to

annually register with DEEP and pay a \$100 fee; and

8. allows the DEEP commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the hunting or fishing guide requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2015, except for the provisions related to hunting, trapping, and archery safety courses, which are effective October 1, 2014.

§ 1 – FISHING LICENSES

Age Requirement

The bill lowers the age requirement for obtaining a fishing license from over age 16 to age 16, thus conforming the statute to DEEP's current practice of licensing 16-year-olds.

Exemption for Certain Students

The bill exempts from the fishing license requirement, with the DEEP commissioner's written authorization, Connecticut secondary school students (i.e., grades nine through 12) participating in school fishing events or field trips that teach fishing techniques. The fishing event or field trip must be part of a school course, and the school must apply for the commissioner's authorization on a form he prescribes.

§ 2 – HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES

Changed License Fees

The bill (1) increases one resident combination hunting and fishing license fee, (2) reduces two resident super sport combination license fees, and (3) reduces the group fishing license fee, as Table 1 shows.

Table 1: Hunting and Fishing License Fees

<i>License</i>	<i>Current Law</i>	<i>The Bill</i>
Combination (all-waters fishing and firearms hunting)	\$ 38	\$ 40
Firearms super sport (all-waters fishing, firearms hunting, deer on private land with shotgun or rifle, and wild turkey in spring on private land)	80	70

Firearms super sport (all-waters fishing, firearms hunting, migratory bird conservation stamp, and migratory bird harvest permit)	60	50
Group fishing license	250	125

Fees Charged 16- and 17-Year-Olds

The bill reduces by 50%, rounded to the next highest dollar, the fees charged to 16- and 17-year-old residents for any firearms or archery hunting, trapping, or sport fishing (1) license or (2) permit, tag, or stamp for taking waterfowl, salmon, pheasant, turkey, migratory game birds, deer, or small game.

Free One-Day Sport Fishing License

The bill allows the DEEP commissioner to designate up to two days each calendar year when he may issue free one-day sport fishing licenses. He can make free licenses available to all members of (1) the public or (2) an age group he designates. The law already requires him to designate one day each year when no license is required for sport fishing.

DEEP's Authority to Offer Reduced Fees

The bill allows the DEEP commissioner, with the OPM secretary's concurrence, to occasionally offer reduced fees for certain hunting and fishing licenses, permits, tags, and stamps in order to increase participation in such activities. These include firearms or archery hunting, trapping, or sport fishing licenses and permits, tags, or stamps for taking waterfowl, salmon, pheasant, turkey, migratory game birds, deer, or small game.

Reduced fees must be allowed only for a portion of a year and be effective during the calendar year in which the reduction is offered. Also, the commissioner may offer reduced fees only if the reduction is offered to (1) all members of the public, (2) all members of a certain age group, or (3) people who successfully complete a fishing education or hunting, trapping, or archery safety course within the calendar year.

§ 3 – HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND ARCHERY SAFETY COURSES

The bill requires hunting, trapping, and archery safety courses to be provided on-line or in a classroom. Current law permits the courses to be provided by any means. The bill also 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.

§§ 4 & 5 – HUNTING OR FISHING GUIDES***Registration***

The bill prohibits people from providing hunting or fishing guide services in Connecticut unless they annually (1) register with DEEP on a form the commissioner prescribes and (2) pay a \$100 registration fee. The form must include the registrant's name, residential and business addresses, business telephone number, and services offered. Registrations are nontransferable and expire on the December 31 following their issuance.

Under the bill, a user, operator, or crew member of a registered charter, party, or head boat is exempt from the registration requirement.

The bill defines "hunting or fishing guide services" as aiding, assisting, or instructing anyone, in exchange for payment, in the taking of fish or wildlife while in Connecticut fields or forests or on Connecticut waters.

Limitation

The bill limits, to two, the number of customers that a hunting or fishing guide can have on a boating vessel when taking or landing marine species.

Penalties

A violator of the hunting or fishing guide requirements commits an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$90 and can pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

Regulations

The bill authorizes the DEEP commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the hunting or fishing guide requirements.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 71, 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 upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/07/2014)