



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 230**

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 314

*Senate, April 1, 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 THE HERITAGE PARKS ADVISORY BOARDS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-10i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in  
4 consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and Community  
5 Development, [and the State Historic Commission,] shall develop  
6 criteria and guidelines for the designation of heritage parks consisting  
7 of sites in a region linked by a common social, historical or economic  
8 theme. Thereafter, in accordance with such criteria and guidelines, the  
9 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may designate  
10 the boundaries, name and theme of any such park, as well as any  
11 physical sites to be included. Any designation shall be consistent with  
12 the plan for development of outdoor recreation and other natural  
13 resources authorized under section 22a-21 and shall be made after  
14 consideration of the significance of the heritage of the sites to be

15 included and the economic benefit to the state from such designation.  
16 Sites designated for inclusion in a heritage park shall not be required  
17 to be contiguous to one another and need not be owned by the state.

18 [(b) Prior to designating a heritage park, the commissioner shall  
19 establish an advisory board to advise him on the designation of the  
20 boundaries, name, theme and sites to be included in a potential  
21 heritage park. The board shall consist of not less than ten members  
22 representing municipalities located within the boundaries of the  
23 proposed heritage park. The number of members from each  
24 municipality shall be determined based on the ratio of the population  
25 of such municipality to the population of all the municipalities to be  
26 included in the proposed heritage park. The commissioner shall  
27 appoint the members of the board from lists submitted by the  
28 legislative bodies of the municipalities located within the boundaries  
29 of the proposed heritage park.]

30 [(c)] (b) The commissioner shall conduct a public hearing  
31 concerning the boundaries, name, theme and sites to be included in a  
32 proposed heritage park at least thirty days prior to designation of such  
33 park. At least thirty days before such hearing, the commissioner shall  
34 cause to be published once, in a newspaper having a substantial  
35 circulation in the area affected, notice of the proposal to designate a  
36 heritage park along with notice of the time, date and location of the  
37 public hearing to be held on such designation.

38 [(d) The designation of the name, boundaries and theme of a  
39 heritage park shall not be effective until it is approved by each  
40 municipality that is located within the boundaries of such park, by  
41 vote of its legislative body.]

42 (c) No site shall be designated for inclusion in such park unless the  
43 owner of such site consents to its inclusion.

44 [(e)] (d) Upon designation of [a] any heritage park, the  
45 commissioner shall [establish an advisory board to advise him on the  
46 promotion and development of such park. The members shall be

47 appointed as provided in subsection (b) of this section] develop a plan  
48 for the promotion and development of such park.

49 [(f)] (e) The commissioner [, after consultation with the advisory  
50 board established pursuant to subsection (e) of this section,] may  
51 designate additional sites to be included in a heritage park, provided  
52 the owners of any such site consent to the designation. The  
53 commissioner may, after a public hearing held pursuant to the notice  
54 provisions of subsection [(c)] (b) of this section, [and upon approval by  
55 each municipality located within the boundaries of a heritage park,]  
56 alter the boundaries, name and theme of such heritage park.

57 [(g)] (f) The commissioner may, within available appropriations, (1)  
58 establish and operate centers for the distribution of information about  
59 heritage parks, and (2) lease or purchase land or buildings and accept  
60 gifts, donations or contributions for the purposes of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	23-10i

**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.

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill makes several changes to how the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) develops and promotes heritage parks. This does not result in a fiscal impact.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 314*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE HERITAGE PARKS ADVISORY BOARDS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows the energy and environmental protection (DEEP) commissioner to designate or alter a heritage park without (1) getting approval from the affected municipalities' legislative bodies and (2) appointing a board to advise him on the park's boundaries, name, and theme, as current law requires. The bill also requires the commissioner to create a plan to develop and promote a heritage park without appointing a board to advise him. Under current law, the advisory boards consist of at least 10 members from the municipalities within the proposed park.

The bill also removes an obsolete reference to the State Historic Commission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Heritage Park Designation***

The law requires the DEEP commissioner, in consultation with the economic development commissioner, to develop criteria and guidelines for designating heritage parks consisting of sites in a region linked by a common social, historical, or economic theme. Sites need not be contiguous or owned by the state, but a site's owner must consent to its inclusion in a park before it can be designated.

By law, the DEEP commissioner must hold a public hearing concerning a park's proposed boundaries, name, and theme at least 30

days before making or changing a designation and give newspaper notice of the proposal at least 30 days before the hearing.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/17/2014)