



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Committee Bill No. 5030**

LCO No. 2917



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY AT STATE-OWNED FISHING AREAS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 The commissioner is authorized to acquire for the use of the state,  
4 by gift, lease, purchase or agreement, fishing, hunting, trapping or  
5 shooting rights or privileges on any land or water in this state, with  
6 necessary rights of ingress thereto and egress therefrom, or, with the  
7 approval of the Governor, to purchase land or water for the purposes  
8 of such rights or privileges. The commissioner may, by regulation,  
9 open or close any of such land or waters for the purpose of regulating  
10 hunting, shooting, trapping, fishing, dog training, field dog trials or  
11 other public use. The commissioner may, by regulation, govern and  
12 prescribe the maximum number of persons or boats that may use such  
13 land or waters and may require that a permit be obtained from the  
14 commissioner or his agent to enter upon such land or waters for the  
15 purposes described in this section, and said commissioner may further  
16 require that such permit be returned to him or his agent with an

17 accurate report of all fish or wildlife taken under such permit. The  
 18 commissioner may, by regulation, govern and prescribe the use of  
 19 such lands and waters, the open and closed seasons, the method of  
 20 taking, the legal length and the daily creel or bag limits for all species  
 21 of fish and wildlife thereon. He may furnish or supply at a reasonable  
 22 fee, on such lands or waters, boats or other facilities for use by  
 23 fishermen or hunters. Portions of such lands and waters may be posted  
 24 by the commissioner as a closed area and, when they are so posted, no  
 25 person shall enter thereon for the purpose of hunting, shooting,  
 26 trapping, fishing, dog training, field dog trials or other public use, and  
 27 no person shall allow any dog in his charge to enter upon such land or  
 28 water. No person over the age of sixteen years shall fish, hunt or trap  
 29 on such land or water without a license; provided the owner in fee of  
 30 any land or water who conveys to the state fishing, hunting, trapping  
 31 or shooting rights by gift, lease or agreement, or the wife or husband of  
 32 such owner, or his lineal descendants, may sport fish, hunt or trap on  
 33 such land or water during the prescribed open seasons without a  
 34 license. The owner of any such land or waters shall not be liable for  
 35 any injury to any person who may be thereon for the purpose of  
 36 hunting, fishing or trapping. Any person who violates any regulation  
 37 adopted pursuant to this section shall have committed an infraction  
 38 and may pay the fine by mail or plead not guilty under the provisions  
 39 of section 51-164n. Any area of such lands that are open to the public  
 40 for the purpose of fishing shall be accessible to persons with physical  
 41 disabilities whenever it is possible to engineer such access.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	26-16

**Statement of Purpose:**

To make more fishing areas accessible for persons who have a physical disability.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. FRITZ, 90th Dist.

H.B. 5030