

Environment Committee Testimony H.B 5026
Public Hearing Feb 4, 2015

Co-Chair: Senator Kennedy
Co-Chair: Representative Albis
Members of the Committee

I am writing to you to express my thoughts on Proposed House Bill No. 5026 **AN ACT PROVIDING PERSONS AGE SIXTY-FIVE OR OLDER WITH PERMANENT FISHING LICENSES.**

I respect the thoughts and initiatives of Rep Bilsito, but cannot support his proposed bill.

A little history. While growing up in the 50s and 60s, you'd go down to your town hall each year and get your hunting and fishing license. It was a fantastic honor that the State of Connecticut offered you a FREE license when you turned 65 years old. The license had a bold label on its top that read "LIFETIME". It was a cherished document, a permanent lifetime license to hunt and fish. When my father turned 65 and obtained his, he showed it off like it was a "winning lottery ticket". Free, but more valuable than the 'cost it saved'. As times changed and statistics on hunting and fishing became more necessary, a 'Lifetime' document was problematical for the DEEP. Without an annual issuance, the DEEP could not determine if the license was 'active', since when an individual passed away, no notice on the license's "end" could be understood. The consequence, DEEP could not include 'Lifetime' licenses in its statistics, so in essence it was forced to under-report the number of 'active' license holders. A few years ago, with the introduction of the Online Sportsmen Licensing System, a simple solution was incorporated. A person 65 years old or older, could get their hunting and fishing licenses FREE OF CHARGE, but were asked to obtain them annually. The online system can be accessed from your home or Library via a PC. It is how I obtain my "free" Hunting and Fishing License. It may also be obtained from any "vender's" PC, such as your Town Hall, your local sporting goods dealer or the DEEP itself. There are approximately 200 locations in Connecticut, (see attachment). The big change is you have to obtain your 'free license' once a year. A few years ago, the Federal Government pushed for a "Marine License", suggesting the States enact one or they would. Again, the motivation was 'statistics'. Connecticut chose to create its own Marine License, (so a "fishing license" actually is two pieces, Inland Fishing License and Marine Fishing License). In this manner DEEP can keep license issue and control within the State of Conn and capture all of the statistics required.

My point here is that 'annual' license issue is an important statistical mandate, and I believe any move to a 'permanent' license will undermine the DEEP's ability to collect the proper and needed statistics. Please note statistics are very important in planning, revenue generation (outside of the cost of the license itself) and cost sharing. As an alternative, perhaps other 'methods' for obtaining your "Free Fishing License" might be discussed. Is the DEEP in a position to take a phone call, print the license, (annually) and mail it to the few who cannot do it themselves or get to a 'vender'? Would local town halls provide this service to its residents? Would your office consider this service?

Before moving forward on this bill, I urge you to speak with the DEEP experts for the facts on the importance of 'statistics' and what complications a 'permanent lifetime' license might present.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful considerations on this proposed bill.

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DEEP Sportsmen License Vendors - Town Clerks and Retail Agents

Updated: April 21, 2014

Sorted by Town

Business Name	Business Address	City	Business Name	Business Address	City
Andover Town Clerk	17 School Rd	Andover	Brand Cigars	230 Roosevelt Dr #15	Morroe
Ansonia Town Clerk	253 Main St	Ansonia	Monroe Town Clerk	7 Fan Hill Rd	Monroe
Ashford Town Clerk	5 Town Hall Rd	Ashford	Morris Town Clerk	3 East St	Morris
Avon Town Clerk	60 West Main St	Avon	New Fairfield Town Clerk	4 Brush Hill Rd	New Fairfield
Sprague Town Clerk	1 Main St	Baltic	New Hartford Town Clerk	530 Main St	New Hartford
Barkhamsted Town Clerk	67 Ripley Hill Rd	Barkhamsted	Up Country Sport Fishing	352 Main St	New Hartford
Beacon Falls Town Clerk	10 Maple Ave	Beacon Falls	Dee's Bait & Tackle	93 Clay St	New Haven
Bethel Town Clerk	1 School St	Bethel	A W Manna	178 Pequot Ave	New London
Bloomfield Town Clerk	800 Bloomfield Ave	Bloomfield	New Milford Town Clerk	10 Main St	New Milford
Bolton Town Clerk	222 Bolton Center Rd	Bolton	Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #32	2985 Berlin Tpke	Newington
Bob's Bait	191 Fitchville Rd	Bozrah	Newington Town Clerk	131 Cedar St	Newington
Bozrah Town Clerk	1 River Rd	Bozrah	East Lyme Town Clerk	108 Pennsylvania Ave	Niantic
Branford Town Clerk	1019 Main St	Branford	Norfolk Town Clerk	19 Maple Ave	Norfolk
Fisherman's Paradise	195 S Montowese St	Branford	DEEP Franklin Wildlife	391 Route 32	North Franklin
Orbit Marine Sports Center, Inc	3273 Fairfield Ave	Bridgeport	Thompson Town Clerk	815 Riverside Dr	North Grosvenordale
Seaview Ave Fish	365 Seaview Ave	Bridgeport	North Haven Town Clerk	18 Church St	North Haven
Bridgewater Town Clerk	44 Main St South	Bridgewater	The Sports Authority, Inc #153	100 Universal Dr North	North Haven
East Windsor Town Clerk	11 Rye St	Broed Brook	North Stonington Town Clerk	40 Main St	North Stonington
Brookfield Town Clerk	100 Pocono Rd	Brookfield	Fisherman's World	2 Fort Point St	Norwalk
Brooklyn Town Clerk	4 Wolf Den Rd	Brooklyn	Norwalk Town Clerk	125 East Ave	Norwalk
Burlington Town Clerk	200 Spalman Hwy	Burlington	Norwich Town Clerk	100 Broadway Rm 125	Norwich
DEEP Session Woods	341 Milford St	Burlington	DEEP Marine Headquarters	333 Ferry Rd	Old Lyme
North Canaan Town Clerk	100 Pease St #7	Canaan	Old Saybrook Town Clerk	302 Main St	Old Saybrook
Canterbury Town Clerk	1 Municipal Dr	Canterbury	Rivers End Tackle	440 Boston Post Rd	Old Saybrook
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #219	110 Albany Tpke	Canton	Ted's Bait & Tackle	35 Clark St	Old Saybrook
Cheshire Town Clerk	84 S Main St	Cheshire	Oxford Town Clerk	486 Oxford Rd	Oxford
Chester Town Clerk	203 Middlesex Ave	Chester	Plainfield Town Clerk	8 Community Ave	Plainfield
Clinton Town Clerk	54 East Main St	Clinton	Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #185	280 New Britain Ave	Plainville
Colchester Town Clerk	127 Norwich Ave	Colchester	Fishin' Factory	1426 Meriden-Waterbury Tpke	Plainville
Colebrook Town Clerk	562 Colebrook Rd	Colebrook	Pomfret Town Clerk	5 Haven Rd	Pomfret Center
Canton Town Clerk	4 Market St	Collinsville	Portland Town Clerk	33 East Main St	Portland
Columbia Town Clerk	323 Route 87	Columbia	Preston Town Clerk	389 Route 2	Preston
Cornwall Town Clerk	26 Pine St	Cornwall	Putnam Town Clerk	126 Church St	Putnam
Coventry Town Clerk	1712 Main St	Coventry	Redding Town Clerk	100 Hill Rd	Redding
Cromwell Town Clerk	41 West St	Cromwell	Ridgefield Town Clerk	400 Main St	Ridgefield
Kmart #3063	45 Shunpike Rd	Cromwell	Rocky Hill Town Clerk	781 Old Main St	Rocky Hill
Candlewood Bait & Tackle	36 Tamarrack Ave	Danbury	Salisbury Town Clerk	27 Main St	Salisbury
Danbury Town Clerk	155 Deer Hill Ave	Danbury	Scotland Town Clerk	9 Devotion Rd	Scotland
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #612	7 Backus Ave Ste 202	Danbury	Seymour Town Clerk	1 First St	Seymour
The Sports Authority, Inc #150	13 Sugarhollow Rd	Danbury	Shelton Town Clerk	54 Hill Rd	Shelton
The Valley Angler	56 Padanaram Rd	Danbury	Sherman Town Clerk	9 Route 39 North	Sherman
Killingly Town Clerk	172 Main St	Danielson	Simsbury Town Clerk	933 Hopmeadow St	Simsbury
Darien Town Clerk	2 Renshaw Rd	Darien	Somers Town Clerk	600 Main St	Somers
Bob's Place	132 Battouville Rd	Dayville	South Windsor Town Clerk	1540 Sullivan Ave	South Windsor
Deep River Town Clerk	174 Main St	Deep River	Kmart #4867	100 Main St North	Southbury
Durham Town Clerk	30 Town House Rd	Durham	Southington Town Clerk	75 Main St	Southington
Jim's Bait & Tackle	391 Norfolk Rd	East Canaan	Stafford Town Clerk	1 Main St	Stafford Springs
East Granby Town Clerk	9 Center St	East Granby	Pete's Place	124 Jefferson St	Stamford
East Haddam Town Clerk	7 Main St	East Haddam	Sterling Town Clerk	1183 Plainfield Pike	Sterling
East Hampton Town Clerk	20 East High St	East Hampton	Stonington Town Clerk	152 Elm St	Stonington
Cabala's	475 East Hartford Blvd North	East Hartford	Mansfield Town Clerk	4 S Eagleville Rd	Storrs Mansfield
East Hartford Town Clerk	740 Main St	East Hartford	Straford Bait & Tackle	1078 Straford Ave	Straford
Hartland Town Clerk	22 South Rd	East Hartland	Straford Town Clerk	2725 Main St Rm 101	Straford
East Haven Town Clerk	260 Main St	East Haven	Suffield Town Clerk	83 Mountain Rd	Suffield
Jonny Jigs	439 Main St	East Haven	Back to Basics	31 Main St	Terryville
Rocky Neck State Park	244 W Main St	East Lyme	Plymouth Town Clerk	80 Main St	Terryville
Ellington Town Hall	56 Main St	Ellington	Sanzer's LLC	288 South Main St	Thomaston
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #168	130 Elm St	Enfield	Thomaston Town Clerk	158 Main St	Thomaston
Enfield Town Clerk	820 Enfield St	Enfield	Tolland Town Clerk	21 Tolland Green	Tolland
Yankee Outdoors	88 Main St	Enfield	Kmart #7283	681 Main St	Torrington
Essex Town Clerk	29 West Ave	Essex	Torrington Town Clerk	140 Main St	Torrington
Fairfield Town Clerk	611 Old Post Rd	Fairfield	Torrington Wireless	246 North Elm St	Torrington
Canaan Town Clerk	108 Main St	Falls Village	Trumbull Town Clerk	5866 Main St	Trumbull
Farmington Town Clerk	1 Monteth Dr	Farmington	Montville Town Clerk	310 Norwich New London Tpke	Uncasville
The Sports Authority, Inc #155	1600 South East Rd	Farmington	JT's Fly Shop	664 Buckley Hwy	Union
Glastonbury Town Clerk	2155 Main St	Glastonbury	Union Town Clerk	1043 Buckley Hwy	Union
Goshen Town Clerk	42C North St	Goshen	Kmart #3218	295 Hartford Tpke Ste 7	Vernon
Granby Town Clerk	15 North Granby Rd	Granby	Vernon Town Clerk	14 Park Pl	Vernon
Groton Town Clerk	45 Fort Hill Rd	Groton	Mike's Bait & Tackle	18 Church St	Voluntown
Haddam Town Clerk	30 Field Park Dr	Haddam	Voluntown Town Clerk	115 Main St	Voluntown
DEEP Agent Headquarters	79 Elm St	Hartford	Wallingford Town Clerk	45 S Main St Rm 108	Wallingford
DEEP Store	79 Elm St	Hartford	Warren Town Clerk	7 Sackett Hill Rd	Warren
Hartford Town Clerk	560 Main St	Hartford	Washington Town Clerk	2 Bryan Plaza	Washington
DEEP Western District Headquarters	230 Plymouth Rd	Harwinton	The Sports Authority, Inc #488	425 Bank St	Waterbury
Harwinton Town Clerk	100 Bentley Dr	Harwinton	Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #153	915 Hartford Tpke #A1	Waterford
Hebron Town Clerk	15 Gilead St	Hebron	Hillyer's Tackle Shop	374 Rope Ferry Rd	Waterford
Kent Town Clerk	41 Kent Green Blvd	Kent	Waterford Town Clerk	15 Rope Ferry Rd	Waterford
Killingworth Town Clerk	323 Route 81	Killingworth	Kmart #7109	595 Straits Tpke	Watertown
Lebanon Town Clerk	579 Exeter Rd	Lebanon	Watertown Town Clerk	37 Deforest St	Watertown
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #1005	170 River Road Suite 2	Lisbon	West Haven Town Clerk	355 Main St	West Haven
Lisbon Town Clerk	1 Newent Rd	Lisbon	Tidewater Bait & Tackle	362 Boston Post Rd	Westbrook
Litchfield Town Clerk	74 West St	Litchfield	Westbrook Town Clerk	866 Boston Post Rd	Westbrook
Old Lyme Town Clerk	52 Lyme St	Lyme	Weston Town Clerk	58 Norfield Rd	Weston
Captain Morgan's Bait And Tackle	21 Boston Post Rd	Madison	Sherwood Island State Park	Sherwood Island Connector	Westport
Hammonasset Beach State Park	1288 Boston Post Rd	Madison	Westport Town Clerk	110 Myrtle Ave	Westport
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #296	194 Buckland Hill Dr Ste 1050	Manchester	Connecticut Outfitters	512 Silas Deane Hwy	Wethersfield
Farr's Sporting Goods	2 Main St	Manchester	Wethersfield Town Clerk	505 Silas Deane Hwy	Wethersfield
The Sports Authority, Inc #154	241 Buckland St	Manchester	Windham Town Clerk	979 Main St	Williamantic
DEEP Eastern District Headquarters	209 Hebron Rd	Marlborough	Willington Town Clerk	40 Old Farms Rd	Willington
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #169	470 Lewis Ave	Meriden	Wilton Town Clerk	238 Danbury Ave	Wilton
Menden Town Clerk	142 East Main St	Meriden	Windsor Town Clerk	275 Broad St	Windsor
Middlefield Town Clerk	393 Jackson Hill Rd	Middlefield	Windsor Locks Town Clerk	50 Church St	Windsor Locks
Fishin' Factory 3	238 East Main St	Middletown	Northwest Sporting Goods	178 Rowley St	Winsted
Bobby Js Bait & Tackle	354 New Haven Ave	Milford	Winchester Town Clerk	338 Main St	Winsted
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc #282	1201 Boston Post Rd	Milford	Wolcott Town Clerk	10 Keneas Ave	Wolcott
Kmart #3495	589 Bridgeport Ave	Milford	Woodbury Town Clerk	275 Main St South	Woodbury
Milford Town Clerk	70 West River St	Milford	Woodstock Town Clerk	415 Route 169	Woodstock