



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 421**

February Session, 2016

Substitute House Bill No. 5585

*House of Representatives, April 4, 2016*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ALBIS of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND FUNDING A STATE PARKS SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNT.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) There is established an  
2 account to be known as the "state parks sustainability account" which  
3 shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The  
4 account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in  
5 the account, including, but not limited to, federal funds, provided,  
6 notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of section 22a-245a of  
7 the general statutes, not less than four million dollars of the total funds  
8 that are deposited to the General Fund in accordance with the  
9 provisions of said section shall be deposited in such account. Moneys  
10 in the account shall be expended by the Department of Energy and  
11 Environmental Protection for the purposes of maintaining, operating  
12 and improving the state parks that are under the care, custody and  
13 control of such department.

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

**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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>	<b>FY 18 \$</b>
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	At least \$4 million	At least \$4 million
Revenue Serv., Dept.	GF - Revenue Loss	At least \$4 million	At least \$4 million

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill establishes a state parks sustainability account as a separate, nonlapsing account in the General Fund to be used by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for state parks. It requires a diversion of \$4 million of unclaimed bottle deposit revenue from the General Fund to the new account.<sup>1</sup>

This results in a revenue gain of at least \$4 million annually to the newly created account for use by DEEP for state parks, and a commensurate revenue loss of at least \$4 million to the General Fund annually.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the amount of the transfer from one general fund account to the other, being at least \$4 million annually.

<sup>1</sup> Bottle escheat revenue totaled \$30.6 million in FY 15.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5585*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND FUNDING A STATE PARKS SUSTAINABILITY ACCOUNT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a state parks sustainability account as a separate, nonlapsing account in the General Fund. It requires that at least \$4 million of the unclaimed bottle deposits that the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) must transfer to the General Fund be deposited in the new account. The account must contain any money required by law to be deposited in it, including federal funds.

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to use the account's funds to maintain, operate, and improve the state parks in its care, custody, and control.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Unclaimed Bottle Deposits***

Under the state's beverage container redemption law (i.e., "bottle bill"), consumers pay a five cent deposit on bottles and cans of beer and other malt beverages, soda water, carbonated soft drinks, and water (CGS §§ 22a-243 to 22a-246). Consumers receive a refund if they return the bottles and cans for redemption. Beverage distributors must remit unclaimed bottle deposits to DRS for transfer to the General Fund. The law does not designate the funds for any specific purpose.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/16/2016)