



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 139

February Session, 2016

* _____SB00139ENV___031716_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH A TROUT STAMP AND A RESIDENT GAME BIRD CONSERVATION STAMP, AMENDING CERTAIN HUNTING AND FISHING FEES FOR RESIDENTS LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND ERECTING A PHEASANT STOCKING ACCOUNT AND PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-48a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

3 (a) The commissioner may establish, by regulations adopted in
4 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, standards for the
5 management of salmon, trout, migratory and resident game birds in
6 accordance with section 26-92, pheasant and turkey which shall
7 include provision for the issuance of permits, tags or stamps. The
8 commissioner may charge a fee for a permit, tag or stamp as follows:
9 Not more than nineteen dollars for turkey; not more than [thirteen]
10 seventeen dollars for migratory game birds; not more than twenty-
11 eight dollars for resident game birds; not more than twenty-eight
12 dollars for pheasant, not more than ten dollars for trout and not more
13 than twenty-eight dollars for salmon. No person shall be issued a

14 permit, tag or stamp for migratory birds, resident game birds,
15 pheasant or turkey without first obtaining a license to hunt and no
16 person shall be issued a permit, tag or stamp for salmon or trout
17 without first obtaining a license to fish. Notwithstanding any provision
18 of any regulation to the contrary, the commissioner may charge a fee of
19 nineteen dollars for the issuance of a permit to hunt wild turkey on
20 state-owned or private land during the fall season.

21 (b) Such permits, tags or stamps shall be issued to qualified
22 applicants by any town clerk. Application for such permits, tags or
23 stamps shall be on such form and require of the applicant such
24 information as the commissioner may prescribe. The commissioner
25 may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54
26 authorizing a town clerk to retain part of any fee paid for a permit, tag
27 or stamp issued by such town clerk pursuant to this section, provided
28 the amount retained shall not be less than fifty cents.

29 (c) There is established an account to be known as the "pheasant
30 stocking account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account
31 within the General Fund. The funds in such account shall be used for
32 the purpose of conducting a pheasant stocking program that includes
33 the purchase and stocking of pheasants. The following funds shall be
34 deposited in such account: (1) All funds collected pursuant to
35 subsection (a) of this section for pheasant, and (2) any voluntary
36 donation made in furtherance of the pheasant stocking program. The
37 pheasant stocking program described in this subsection shall be
38 conducted within the available resources of such account.

39 Sec. 2. Section 26-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the
40 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

41 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of this
42 section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping and
43 sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as follows:
44 (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2) resident
45 fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine waters fishing

46 license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters fishing license,
47 five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license, thirty-two dollars;
48 (6) resident combination license to fish in inland waters and firearms
49 hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination license to fish in
50 marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars; (8) resident
51 combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, forty
52 dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all waters and bow
53 and arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued pursuant to
54 section 26-86c, sixty-five dollars; (10) resident firearms super sport
55 license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, firearms private land
56 shotgun or rifle deer permit issued pursuant to section 26-86a, and
57 permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season on private land
58 issued pursuant to section 26-48a, as amended by this act, seventy
59 dollars; (11) resident archery super sport license to fish in all waters,
60 bow and arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued pursuant to
61 section 26-86c and permit to hunt wild turkey during the spring season
62 on private land issued pursuant to section 26-48a, as amended by this
63 act, eighty-two dollars; (12) resident firearms super sport license to fish
64 in all waters and firearms hunt, firearms private land shotgun or rifle
65 deer permit, muzzleloader private land deer permit, pursuant to
66 section 26-86 and private land permit to hunt wild turkey during
67 spring season pursuant to section 26-48a, as amended by this act,
68 eighty-four dollars; (13) resident firearms super sport license to fish in
69 all waters and firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation stamp, and
70 migratory bird harvest permit (HIP), fifty dollars; (14) resident
71 trapping license, thirty-four dollars; (15) resident junior trapping
72 license for persons under sixteen years of age, eleven dollars; (16)
73 junior firearms hunting license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident
74 firearms hunting license, ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland
75 waters fishing license, fifty-five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters
76 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, twenty-two
77 dollars; (20) nonresident marine waters fishing license, fifteen dollars;
78 (21) nonresident marine waters fishing license for a period of three
79 consecutive days, eight dollars; (22) nonresident all-waters fishing
80 license, sixty-three dollars; (23) nonresident combination license to

81 firearms hunt and inland waters fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24)
82 nonresident combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,
83 one hundred twenty dollars; (25) nonresident combination license to
84 fish in marine waters and firearms hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26)
85 nonresident trapping license, two hundred fifty dollars. Persons sixty-
86 five years of age and over who have been residents of this state for not
87 less than one year and who meet the requirements of subsection (b) of
88 section 26-31 may be issued an annual license to firearms hunt or to
89 fish or combination license to fish and firearms hunt or a license to trap
90 without fee. The issuing agency shall indicate on a combination license
91 the specific purpose for which such license is issued. The town clerk
92 shall retain a recording fee of one dollar for each license issued by such
93 clerk.

94 (b) Any nonresident residing in one of the New England states or
95 the state of New York may procure a license to hunt or to fish or to
96 hunt and fish for the same fee or fees as a resident of this state if such
97 nonresident is a resident of a state the laws of which allow the same
98 privilege to residents of this state.

99 (c) The fee for a group fishing license, as described in subsection (h)
100 of section 26-30, shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars.

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

106 (2) The fee charged pursuant to section 26-27b, as amended by this
107 act, 26-48a, as amended by this act, 26-86a or 26-86c for any firearms
108 hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport fishing permit, tag or
109 stamp that is issued to any Connecticut resident who is [sixteen or
110 seventeen] less than eighteen years of age shall be equal to fifty per
111 cent of the fee provided for such permit, tag or stamp in said sections,
112 rounded to the next highest dollar.

113 (e) In addition to the calendar day designated pursuant to
114 subsection (f) of section 26-27, the Commissioner of Energy and
115 Environmental Protection may designate two additional days in each
116 calendar year on which a one-day license for sport fishing may be
117 issued free of charge. The commissioner may make such one-day
118 license available to all members of the public or to all members of an
119 age group designated by said commissioner.

120 (f) From time to time and for the purpose of increasing
121 participation, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
122 Protection with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Office of Policy
123 and Management, may reduce, but not completely waive, the fee or
124 cost for any license, permit, tag or stamp, or combination thereof, as
125 provided for in this section, section 26-27b, as amended by this act, 26-
126 48a, as amended by this act, 26-86a or 26-86c. Any such reduction shall:
127 (1) Be for a portion of a calendar year, (2) remain in effect only during
128 the calendar year in which such reduction is made, and (3) be made
129 only if such reduction is provided to all members of the public, to all
130 members of a certain age group, or to individuals who, in such
131 calendar year, successfully complete a course of instruction in fishing
132 techniques, as provided for in section 26-31a or a conservation
133 education course of instruction, as provided for in subsection (a) of
134 section 26-31.

135 Sec. 3. Section 26-27b of the general statutes is repealed and the
136 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

137 (a) [On or after July 1, 1993, no] No person sixteen years of age or
138 older may hunt [waterfowl] migratory game birds or take [waterfowl]
139 migratory game birds in the state without first procuring a Connecticut
140 Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp and having such stamp in his or
141 her possession and no person may hunt a resident game bird or take a
142 resident game bird without first procuring a Connecticut Resident
143 Game Bird Conservation Stamp. [The] Each such stamp shall not be
144 transferable and shall be issued annually.

145 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
146 shall provide for the design, production and procurement of the
147 mandatory Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp and the
148 mandatory Connecticut Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp and
149 shall, by regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of
150 chapter 54, provide for the issuance of [the] each stamp. Stamps shall
151 be sold at a price determined by the commissioner, provided the price
152 of a mandatory [stamp] Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation
153 Stamp shall not exceed [thirteen] seventeen dollars and the price of a
154 mandatory Connecticut Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp shall
155 not exceed twenty-eight dollars. The commissioner shall establish an
156 additional voluntary migratory bird and resident game bird
157 conservation donation of not less than two dollars that shall be
158 deposited in the migratory bird and resident game bird conservation
159 account established under section 26-27c, as amended by this act. Any
160 agent issuing such stamps may retain a fee established by the
161 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant to
162 section 26-3c for each stamp sold and shall remit the balance to the
163 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

164 Sec. 4. Section 26-27c of the general statutes is repealed and the
165 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

166 The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
167 provide for the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp and
168 the Connecticut Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp to be
169 reproduced and marketed in the form of prints and other related
170 artwork. Funds generated from such marketing and the sale of such
171 stamps pursuant to section 26-27b, as amended by this act, shall be
172 deposited in a separate account maintained by the Treasurer and
173 known as the migratory bird and resident game bird conservation
174 account. Within said account, there shall be a subaccount for the
175 voluntary migratory bird and resident game bird conservation
176 donation collected pursuant to section 26-27b, as amended by this act.
177 The migratory bird and resident game bird conservation account shall

178 be a separate, nonlapsing account of the General Fund. All funds
179 credited to the migratory bird and resident game bird conservation
180 account and subaccount shall only be used for: (1) The development,
181 management, preservation, conservation, acquisition, purchase and
182 maintenance of [waterfowl] migratory and resident game birds,
183 migratory and resident game bird habitat and wetlands and purchase
184 or acquisition of recreational rights or interests relating to migratory
185 and resident game birds; and (2) the design, production, promotion
186 and procurement and sale of the prints and related artwork.

187 Sec. 5. Section 26-27d of the general statutes is repealed and the
188 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

189 (a) There is established a Citizens' Advisory Board for the
190 Connecticut Migratory Bird and Resident Game Bird Conservation
191 [Stamp] Stamps program. The board shall consist of seven members
192 appointed by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
193 Protection. The members of the board shall be individuals representing
194 organizations having a record of activity in migratory or resident game
195 bird or [wetland] habitat conservation or who have an expertise or
196 recognized knowledge in an area pertinent and valuable to the
197 program. The board shall elect a chairman from among its
198 membership on or before July 1, 1992. The chairman shall be
199 unaffiliated with any administrative agency of the state.

200 (b) The board shall advise the Commissioner of Energy and
201 Environmental Protection on the design, production and procurement
202 of the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp and the
203 Connecticut Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp and the
204 expenditure of funds generated from the sale of such stamps and
205 associated art products pursuant to sections 26-27b, as amended by
206 this act, and 26-27c, as amended by this act.

207 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) The Commissioner of Energy
208 and Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance
209 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish a

210 three day out-of-state bird hunting license that may be used to hunt
211 migratory waterfowl upland game birds. The fee for such license shall
212 be thirty-five dollars and shall be in addition to any other permit or
213 stamp requirement. All funds collected from such fee shall be
214 deposited into the migratory and resident game bird conservation
215 account established pursuant to section 26-27c of the general statutes,
216 as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	26-48a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	26-28
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	26-27b
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	26-27c
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	26-27d
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*