



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 139**

February Session, 2016

\* SB00139FIN 041916 \*

**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 Section 26-48a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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.*

**FIN**      *Joint Favorable*