
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5360

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

SUMMARY

This bill does the following five things:

1. expands the exemption from having to obtain solid waste and water discharge permits for leaf composting facilities to those facilities that add grass clippings to the leaf compost;
2. requires anyone who possesses, breeds, propagates, or sells fallow deer to obtain a game breeder's license from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP);
3. allows the DEEP commissioner to establish and issue lifetime authorizations for hunting and fishing;
4. specifies areas where there is no closed season, creel limit, and length restriction for taking carp by bow and arrow; and
5. makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

COMPOSTING LEAVES AND GRASS CLIPPINGS

By law, facilities that only compost leaves are exempt from needing to obtain a solid waste facility or water discharge permit from DEEP. The bill expands the exemption to facilities that add grass clippings to the leaf compost, but in an amount no greater than 25% of the compost (a 3:1 ratio of leaves to grass clippings).

The bill correspondingly requires the DEEP commissioner to adopt

regulations on the exempt facilities that compost leaves and grass clippings. Current regulations address only leaf composting facilities. The regulations set out registration, siting, operation, and reporting requirements (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 22a-208i(a)-1).

FALLOW DEER

Existing law prohibits breeding, propagating, or possessing more than one live specimen of certain wild game quadrupeds without a game breeder's license from DEEP. The restriction currently applies to two members of the Cervidae (deer) family: sika (*Cervus nippon*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). The bill expands the restriction by applying it to fallow deer (*Dama dama*).

Under existing law, anyone seeking a game breeder's license must apply in writing to DEEP. The license costs \$27 and is renewed annually. The law sets reporting requirements for licensees.

LIFETIME HUNTING AND FISHING AUTHORIZATION

The bill allows the DEEP commissioner to establish and issue lifetime hunting and fishing licenses, permits, and stamps, or combinations of them. It does not specify the fees or criteria for obtaining these authorizations. Under existing law, DEEP generally issues hunting and fishing licenses, permits, and stamps annually, subject to specified fees (CGS § 26-27 *et seq.*).

CARP FISHING

The bill designates certain state waters as locations with no closed season, creel limit, and length restriction for taking carp by bow and arrow. It designates the following waters:

1. Thames River;
2. Connecticut River and its coves downstream of the Arrigoni Bridge (connecting Middletown to Portland);
3. Coginchaug River downstream of Route 3, including the Cromwell Meadows Wildlife Management Area;

4. Quinnipiac River downstream of Route 40; and
5. Housatonic River downstream of the Derby Dam.

Under existing regulations, people may take carp throughout the year from the river systems of the abovementioned rivers, except the Coginchaug River, as well as the French, Quinebaug, and Shetucket rivers. But they prohibit taking carp by bow and arrow in streams stocked with trout or salmon. The regulations generally limit the daily creel limit for carp to five, with no more than one carp exceeding 30 inches in length. More restrictive requirements apply in Trophy Carp Waters (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 26-112-45 & 26-142a-4).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)