



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 268

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 109

Senate, April 5, 2018

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. KENNEDY of the 12th Dist. and SEN. MINER of the 30th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN STATE REFUGES FOR WILDLIFE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-106 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

3 (a) That portion of Milford Harbor extending from Memorial Bridge
4 to the Milford breakwater and that portion of Gulf Pond extending
5 from land of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad
6 Company to said breakwater and that portion of the upland known as
7 harbor side of Wilcox Park located on the east side of said Milford
8 Harbor, comprising five acres more or less, is established as a state
9 refuge for wildlife. [The territory within the limits above described
10 shall be subject to all provisions of the general statutes relating to state
11 refuges for wildlife and to the regulations of the commissioner relating
12 to such refuges.]

13 (b) That portion of the Quinnipiac River in New Haven extending
 14 from the Interstate 95 bridge to the Interstate 91 bridge and that
 15 portion of the Mill River in New Haven extending from the Interstate
 16 95 bridge to the Interstate 91 bridge is established as a state refuge for
 17 wildlife.

18 (c) The territory within the limits described in subsections (a) and
 19 (b) of this section shall be subject to all provisions of the general
 20 statutes relating to state refuges for wildlife and to the regulations of
 21 the commissioner relating to such refuges.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2018	26-106

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Up to 1,000	Up to 1,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill designates portions of the Quinnipiac and Mill rivers in New Haven as state wildlife refuges; prohibiting hunting, trapping, fishing, or trespassing in these areas. It subject violators to a fine of up to \$100.

Creation of a fine may result in a revenue gain of up to \$1,000 annually as it is anticipated that there could be up to 10 violations as a result of the bill's provisions.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 109*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN STATE REFUGES FOR WILDLIFE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill designates portions of the Quinnipiac and Mill rivers in New Haven as state wildlife refuges. In doing so, it prohibits hunting, trapping, fishing, or trespassing in these areas. A violator is subject to a fine of up to \$100 (CGS § 26-107).

Specifically, the bill establishes as a state wildlife refuge the portion of the (1) Quinnipiac River in New Haven extending from the I-95 bridge to the I-91 bridge and (2) Mill River in New Haven extending from the I-95 bridge to the I-91 bridge.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

BACKGROUND***State Wildlife Refuge***

By law and regulation, hunting, trapping, fishing, and trespassing are prohibited in any state wildlife refuge (CGS § 26-107 and Conn. Agencies Regs. § 26-66-1(h)). Additionally, the law prohibits hunting, killing, pursuing, or trapping wildlife in a lane, road, or highway adjacent to a state wildlife refuge. Being in a state wildlife refuge or closed area with a firearm, bow and arrow, trap, snare, net, or dog is prima facie evidence of a violation.

By law, the energy and environmental protection commissioner, or his designee, may hunt, kill, or trap fox, skunk, raccoon, wildcat, mink, weasel, hawk, owl, or other predatory bird or animal in a state wildlife refuge or closed area (CGS § 26-107).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 14 (03/22/2018)