



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 298

February Session, 2018

Senate Bill No. 429

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 bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PASSPORT TO THE PARKS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-15h of the 2018 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 There is established an account to be known as the Passport to the
5 Parks account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the
6 General Fund. Moneys in such account shall be used to provide
7 expenses of the Council on Environmental Quality, beginning with the
8 fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and for the care, maintenance,
9 operation and improvement of state parks and campgrounds, the
10 funding of soil and water conservation districts and the funding of
11 environmental review teams. [Any moneys in such account may be
12 expended only pursuant to an appropriation by the General
13 Assembly.] All funds collected from the Passport to the Parks Fee
14 established pursuant to section 14-49b shall be deposited into the

15 Passport to the Parks account. Such account shall contain all moneys
 16 required by law to be deposited in such account. Such account may
 17 receive funds from private or public sources, including, but not limited
 18 to, any municipal government or the federal government. Such
 19 account shall contain subaccounts as required by section 23-15b.

20 Sec. 2. Section 23-15e of the general statutes is repealed and the
 21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

22 Not later than July 31, [2015] 2018, the Commissioner of Energy and
 23 Environmental Protection shall establish the amount of rent paid by
 24 any resident or nonresident of this state for the use of state park
 25 property for any special event of limited duration, including, but not
 26 limited to, sporting events, weddings and receptions, in an amount
 27 that is based on the number of persons attending such special event
 28 and that, at a minimum, covers all costs of the department related to
 29 such special event. The amount of any rent charged pursuant to this
 30 section shall reflect a higher fee for any event that will have a greater
 31 number of people in attendance.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	23-15h
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	23-15e

ENV *Joint Favorable*

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	Passport to Parks - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 clarifies that Passport to Parks is a non-lapsing account of the General Fund, rather than an appropriated account within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This clarifying change has no fiscal impact.

Section 2 of the bill expands the list of events that comprise a “special event of limited duration” to include sporting events, and requires DEEP to set rental fees that cover the costs of these events. This provision is anticipated to result in a revenue gain to the Passport to Parks account, as it is expected that DEEP would set fees at least higher than the minimum required to cover the sporting event costs.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the amount of fees that exceeds DEEP minimum costs related to sporting events in the outyears.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 429*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PASSPORT TO THE PARKS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill removes the requirement that money in the passport to the parks account may only be spent pursuant to a legislative appropriation. Thus, it clarifies that it is a non-lapsing General Fund account, rather than an appropriated account. By law, the account must be used for the care, maintenance, operation, and improvement of state parks and campgrounds; funding soil and water conservation districts and environmental review teams; and, beginning with FY 19, paying the expenses of the Council on Environmental Quality.

The bill also makes a change with respect to fees for renting state park property for “special events of limited duration.” By law, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner establishes these rental fees based on the number of people attending the events. The bill requires that, by July 31, 2018, he establish rental fees that also, at a minimum, cover all DEEP expenses related to the events. Additionally, it specifically adds sporting events to the list of events that constitute a special event of limited duration. Existing law includes events such as weddings and receptions.

By law, fees for special events of limited duration must be deposited into the passport to the parks account, unless the commissioner specifically agrees otherwise (CGS § 23-15b of the 2018 supplement). The account contains subaccounts for funds collected for any special event of limited duration attributable to the state park from which the funds are collected. The funds are used to make improvements to the state parks.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/22/2018)