
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 752 (File 55, as amended by Senate "A" and "B")*

AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKING AND VAPING ON BEACHES IN STATE PARKS.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits smoking on a beach located in a state park. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, or possessing a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other device with lighted tobacco, as well as an electronic nicotine delivery system and vapor product. Under the bill, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner may enforce the smoking prohibition. A violation is an infraction, payable by mail.

The bill requires DEEP to post signs at each state park beach to inform the public of the smoking prohibition. Within available appropriations and as applicable, DEEP must post the signs at the high waterline where a state park beach borders a nonstate beach.

Additionally, the bill allows the DEEP commissioner to provide a one-time incentive to approved agents who implement automated sales for issuing state hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses through the state agent platform. The incentive is a credit of up to \$400 to a new or existing agent to reimburse implementation costs. The bill requires the commissioner to establish eligibility criteria for the credit based on hardship and documented implementation costs.

Lastly, the bill increases, from 50 to 100, the number of people who may participate in a DEEP-licensed group fishing event. By law, DEEP may issue a group fishing license to enable a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization to hold a group fishing event for certain people, including the following:

1. disabled veterans,

2. people receiving services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
3. people with intellectual disabilities receiving services from the Department of Developmental Services,
4. people with autism spectrum disorder receiving services from the Department of Social Services, or
5. people receiving services from the Department of Children and Families.

*Senate Amendment "A" replaces the original bill (File 55) with similar provisions, eliminates a warning for a first violation, and requires DEEP to post signs at each state beach about the smoking prohibition.

*Senate Amendment "B" adds the provisions on (1) automated hunting, trapping, and fishing license sales and (2) the number of people who may participate in certain group fishing events.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the provisions on (1) automated hunting, trapping, and fishing license sales and (2) group fishing events are effective October 1, 2019.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 4 (02/25/2019)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 39 Nay 9 (05/28/2019)