OLR Bill Analysis
ssB 590

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SELECTION OF CATERERS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO RENT STATE-OWNED VENUES.

SUMMARY
This bill allows a person who rents a venue at a state park or facility to use a caterer of his or her choosing as long as the (1) caterer has a contract with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to provide catering services at the venue or (2) person provides DEEP information the commissioner requires at least 12 months before the venue rental date for her review and approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND
Existing Regulations on Catering Services in Parks

Under existing regulations, for any event held at the Harkness Memorial State Park mansion or the Gillette Castle visitor’s center where food is served, the person renting the venue must retain a caterer who is on DEEP’s pre-approved caterer list (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 23-4-17(a)). But in practice, DEEP requires anyone renting the Harkness Memorial State Park mansion or the Rocky Neck State Park’s Ellie Mitchell Pavilion to use a caterer who is on its pre-approved caterer list.

The regulations also state that for an event at the Rocky Neck State Park’s Ellie Mitchell Pavilion, Fort Trumbull State Park, or the Putnam Memorial State Park’s pavilion, a person renting the venue may not retain a caterer unless he or she submits information about the caterer to DEEP within 120 days before the event. DEEP may disapprove the caterer if the caterer previously catered an event at the venue and failed to (1) comply with DEEP’s requirements (e.g., for insurance and a liquor permit); (2) restore the venue to its pre-event condition; or (3)
demonstrate competence or regard for legal requirements (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 23-4-17(b)).

Additionally, if someone wants to retain a caterer for an event at a picnic shelter in a state park, forest, or other recreational area that DEEP manages, the person must submit information about the caterer to the park supervisor within 30 days before the event. A renter who fails to do so is subject to a $50 processing fee. The supervisor may disapprove a caterer if the caterer previously catered an event at a state venue and failed to restore areas where food or beverages were served to their pre-event condition (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 23-4-32).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28  Nay 0  (03/08/2019)