
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 838

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO CERTAIN FISHING PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the number of participants allowed under a group fishing license, which the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) issues, from 50 to 100 people. By law, DEEP may issue a group fishing license to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization to conduct up to 50 group fishing events per year for qualified individuals (e.g., disabled veterans and certain people receiving services from the departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Services, Social Services, and Children and Families).

The bill also prohibits the state from having a closed trout fishing season. (Under current DEEP regulations, trout fishing in most lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams is closed from March 1 to 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 26-112-45(m)).) However, the bill does not limit DEEP's existing statutory authority to regulate the method and manner of taking trout (CGS §§ 26-111 & -112).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 3 (02/26/2021)