



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 143

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 838

Senate, March 25, 2021

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (h) of section 26-30 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (h) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
5 issue a group fishing license to any tax-exempt organization qualified
6 under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
7 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,
8 as amended from time to time, for the purpose of conducting a group
9 fishing event or events for persons: (1) With a service-related or other
10 disability who receive services at a facility of the United States
11 Department of Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System, (2) who
12 receive mental health or addiction services from: (A) The Department of
13 Mental Health and Addiction Services, (B) state-operated facilities, as

14 defined in section 17a-458, or (C) programs or facilities funded by the
15 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, as provided for
16 in sections 17a-468b, 17a-469, 17a-673 and 17a-676, (3) with intellectual
17 disability who receive services from the Department of Developmental
18 Services, as provided for in section 17a-217, or from facilities licensed by
19 the Department of Developmental Services, as provided for in section
20 17a-227, (4) diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder who receive
21 services from the Department of Social Services, or (5) receiving care
22 from the Department of Children and Families, as provided for in
23 section 17a-94, or from programs or child-care facilities licensed
24 pursuant to section 17a-145 or 17a-147. Any such organization shall
25 conduct not more than fifty such events, including marine and inland
26 water events, in any calendar year and each such event shall be limited
27 to not more than [fifty] one hundred persons. Application for such a
28 group fishing license shall be submitted once per calendar year on a
29 form prescribed by the commissioner and with the necessary fee and
30 shall provide such information as required by the commissioner. All
31 fishing activities conducted pursuant to such group license shall be
32 supervised by staff or volunteers of the organization conducting the
33 event or events. Such staff or volunteers shall possess such group fishing
34 license at the site of any such event or events. Each such staff member
35 or volunteer shall have a license to fish. Such organization shall, not later
36 than ten days after such group fishing event, report to the commissioner,
37 on forms provided by the commissioner, information on the results of
38 such event. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the
39 total: (A) Number of participants, (B) hours fished, (C) number of each
40 species caught, and (D) number of each species not released. Such
41 organization shall not charge a fee to any person that participates in any
42 such group fishing event conducted pursuant to such group fishing
43 license and any such group fishing event shall not be used by such
44 organization as a fund raising event.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision
46 of title 26 of the general statutes, there shall be no closed season for sport
47 fishing of trout provided nothing in this section shall be construed to
48 limit the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's

49 authority to regulate the method and manner of take for such trout.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-30(h)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases the number of participants allowed under a group fishing license, issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), from 50 to 100 people. Currently, DEEP issues a group fishing license to non-profit organizations to hold up to 50 group fishing events per year for certain qualified individuals. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, since the same number of group licenses are anticipated to be issued.

The bill also prohibits the closure of the trout fishing season. Currently, inland trout fishing is closed from March 1 to the second Saturday in April. This provision is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as this trout season has already been reopened.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

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)