



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Raised Bill No. 838**

LCO No. 2671



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  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 the general statutes, there shall be no closed season for sport fishing  
47 of 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

**Statement of Purpose:**

To better enable veterans groups to engage in fishing and to otherwise allow for more fishing opportunities.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*