

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200  
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

---

sSB-117

AN ACT CONCERNING TREE REMOVAL ON PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 5017)

Senate Calendar No.: 245

---

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

This bill establishes standards and processes that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) must follow before removing five or more trees per acre from state parks and campgrounds. Specifically, it requires DEEP to consult with a licensed arborist who is not employed by DEEP before authorizing their removal.

If the arborist determines that an identified tree is not an immediate public hazard, DEEP must notify the public about the proposed tree removal and hold a public hearing if anyone objects to it. If the tree is an immediate public hazard, DEEP may move forward with the work after consulting with the arborist.

Additionally, the bill requires the DEEP commissioner to use existing resources to plant replacement trees in the park or campground after a tree removal.

Primary Analyst: MR  
Contributing Analyst(s):

4/21/22

The bill could result in significant costs to DEEP to the extent a high number of trees are identified for removal or pruning. It is estimated that the agency may need to hire seven maintainers, at a cost of \$432,156 in FY 23 and \$417,755 in FY 24, including fringe benefits, to replant trees, depending on the actual number required based on the arborist determination. It could also cost DEEP over \$1 million annually for the cost of purchasing replacement trees, depending on the actual number required.

Senate "A" replaces the original bill with similar provisions resulting in the impact described above.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact described above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

*The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.*