

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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

SB-117

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

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 5017

File Copy No.: 347

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

The strike-all amendment establishes requirements that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) must follow before removing or pruning certain trees in state parks and campgrounds. Specifically, the amendment requires DEEP to consult with an independent licensed arborist before authorizing the removal or pruning of trees under certain conditions. If the arborist determines that a tree is an immediate public hazard, DEEP may perform the tree removal or trimming, under the bill's provisions. Lastly, the bill requires DEEP to plant replacement trees in the park or campground after removal.

The amendment could result in significant costs to DEEP to the extent a high number of trees are identified for removal or pruning. It is

Primary Analyst: MR
Contributing Analyst(s):

4/20/22
(PC)

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.

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.