

Senate, April 1, 1998. The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. DAILY, 33rd DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FALCONRY.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (1) As used in this act,  
2 "raptor" means any bird of the family  
3 Accipitridae, Falconidae or Strigidae, but does  
4 not mean any bird listed as endangered, threatened  
5 or of special concern in regulations adopted under  
6 section 26-306 of the general statutes; and (2)  
7 "falconry" means the activity of taking wild  
8 quarry in its natural habitat by means of trained  
9 raptors.  
10 Sec. 2. (NEW) Any person engaged in falconry  
11 shall abide by the provisions of Title 50 CFR and  
12 guidelines established by the United States Fish  
13 and Wildlife Service governing falconry. The  
14 Commissioner of Environmental Protection may adopt  
15 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of  
16 chapter 54 of the general statutes, consistent  
17 with or more restrictive than federal regulations.  
18 If the commissioner requires a permit for  
19 falconry, a permittee shall possess a valid state  
20 hunting license before obtaining any class of  
21 falconry permit and shall submit, on or before  
22 January first annually, a self certification that  
23 the permittee's activities comply with the  
24 provisions of federal falconry regulations.

25 Nonresidents may practice falconry in this state  
26 consistent with nonresident fees or for the same  
27 fee as a resident of this state if such  
28 nonresident is a resident of a state the laws of  
29 which allow the same privilege to residents of  
30 this state.

31 ENV COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 21 NAY 1 JF

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF 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 HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

\* \* \* \* \*

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SB 430**

STATE IMPACT	Minimal Cost and Potential Minimal Revenue (Environmental Conservation Fund, see explanation below)
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Department of Environmental Protection

**EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:**

STATE IMPACT: Passage of this bill will result in costs to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) due to the implementation and the regulation of a falconry program in the state. It is anticipated that DEP staff will need to be trained (no in-house expert exists) in falconry and potentially, regulations will be adopted. Costs associated for these activities are between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Implementation of the program will require enforcement/regulatory activities by various staff of approximately 100 man hours per year away from other activities. Any potential revenue gain from fees which the DEP could impose through regulations, is anticipated to be minimal. At this time, less than 20 falconers are anticipated to participate in the state.

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**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

SB 430

**AN ACT CONCERNING FALCONRY**

**SUMMARY:** This bill allows the sport of falconry in Connecticut. Falconry is using trained raptors to take wild game. The bill requires falconers to abide by federal falconry regulations and guidelines. The federal standards regulate classes of falconry permits, raptor housing facilities, transportation of birds, marking raptors, and taking of birds from the wild. The bill allows the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner to adopt regulations consistent with or more restrictive than the federal ones. The bill limits the birds that can be used to those belonging to certain hawk, falcon, or owl families and those not listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern under DEP regulations.

If DEP requires a falconry permit, the applicant must also hold a valid state hunting license before obtaining a falconry permit. A falconry permittee must, by January 1 each year, self-certify to the commissioner that he has complied with the federal falconry regulations.

Under the bill, a nonresident may practice falconry in Connecticut for a fee if he resides in a state which allows Connecticut residents to practice falconry there.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 21      Nay 1