



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 590

LCO No. 4466



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SELECTION OF CATERERS FOR
INDIVIDUALS WHO RENT STATE-OWNED VENUES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) The commissioner may (1) provide for the collection of fees for
4 parking, admission, boat launching and other uses of state parks,
5 forests, boat launches and other state recreational facilities, (2)
6 establish from time to time the daily and seasonal amount thereof, (3)
7 enter into contractual relations with other persons for the operation of
8 concessions, (4) establish other sources of revenue to be derived from
9 services to the general public using such parks, forests and facilities,
10 (5) employ such assistants as may be necessary for the collection of
11 such revenue. The commissioner shall deposit such revenue derived
12 therefrom with the State Treasurer in the Passport to the Parks account
13 established pursuant to section 23-15h. On and after July 1, 1992, any
14 increase in any fee or any establishment of a new fee under this section
15 shall be by regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of
16 chapter 54. Not later than May 1, 2010, said commissioner shall

17 establish the daily and seasonal amount of such parking, admission,
18 boat launching and other use fees for residents of this state in amounts
19 not greater than one hundred thirty-five per cent of the amounts
20 charged for such fees by said commissioner as of April 1, 2009. Not
21 later than May 1, 2010, said commissioner shall establish the daily and
22 seasonal amount of such parking, admission, boat launching and other
23 use fees for nonresidents of this state in amounts not greater than one
24 hundred fifty per cent of the amounts charged for such fees by said
25 commissioner as of April 1, 2009. Notwithstanding the provisions of
26 this section, the commissioner may enter into an agreement with any
27 municipality under which the municipality may retain fees collected
28 by municipal officers at state boat launches when state employees are
29 not on duty. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require
30 any person who rents a venue at a state park or other facility to utilize
31 the services of any caterer who may otherwise have a contract with the
32 commissioner to provide catering services at such venue.

33 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
34 the commissioner may establish fees for the public use of the mansion
35 at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford, the Ellie Mitchell
36 Pavilion at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme and Gillette Castle
37 State Park in East Haddam provided no fee shall be charged to any
38 group organized as a nonprofit corporation under 26 USC 501(c)(3) for
39 purposes of providing support to such parks or facilities and further
40 provided the commissioner shall specify procedures and criteria for
41 the selection of any private business which is engaged by the state to
42 provide services during any such public use, including, but not limited
43 to, catering services. Such fees, procedures and criteria shall be
44 effective until June 30, 1999, or until regulations are adopted,
45 whichever is sooner. Regulations implementing such fees, procedures
46 and criteria shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of
47 chapter 54 on or before July 1, 1999. Such fees shall be comparable with
48 rents and charges of similar properties based on fair market rates.
49 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any person
50 who rents a venue at a state park or other facility to utilize the services

51 of any caterer who may otherwise have a contract with the
52 commissioner to provide catering services at such venue.

53 (c) The commissioner shall issue to any nonresident of the state,
54 upon payment of a fee established by said commissioner, a
55 nontransferable Connecticut private passenger motor vehicle pass
56 which permits free parking throughout the calendar year at any state
57 park, forest, boat launch or other state recreational facility, provided
58 the commissioner shall not be required to issue such a pass to any
59 park, forest or facility which is wholly managed by a private
60 concessionaire and may require payment of fees for special events. Not
61 later than May 1, 2010, said commissioner shall establish the amount of
62 such fee for nonresidents of this state in an amount not greater than
63 one hundred fifty per cent of the amount charged for such fee by said
64 commissioner as of April 1, 2009.

65 (d) The commissioner shall issue to any resident of the state who is
66 sixty-five years of age or older and to any resident of this state who is a
67 disabled veteran, as defined in section 14-254, or under federal law,
68 without fee, upon application of such resident, a nontransferable
69 lifetime pass which shall permit free admission and boat access
70 parking for use at any state park, forest or state recreational facility,
71 provided the commissioner shall not be required to issue such a pass
72 for use of any park, forest or facility which is wholly managed by a
73 private concessionaire and may require payment of fees for special
74 events.

75 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, any person with a
76 valid Connecticut motor vehicle license plate shall not pay a parking
77 fee at any state park, forest or other state recreational facility on and
78 after January 1, 2018.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	23-26

Statement of Purpose:

To allow persons who rent state-owned venues in parks and other locations to use the caterer of their own choice.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.; REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.

S.B. 590