



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 590

January Session, 2019



**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 Section 23-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, provided if
33 the caterer of such person's choice is not approved to otherwise
34 provide such catering services at such facility, such person may
35 provide information required by the commissioner for such approval
36 not later than twelve months prior to the date of such rental for review
37 and approval by the commissioner.

38 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
39 the commissioner may establish fees for the public use of the mansion
40 at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford, the Ellie Mitchell
41 Pavilion at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme and Gillette Castle
42 State Park in East Haddam provided no fee shall be charged to any
43 group organized as a nonprofit corporation under 26 USC 501(c)(3) for
44 purposes of providing support to such parks or facilities and further
45 provided the commissioner shall specify procedures and criteria for
46 the selection of any private business which is engaged by the state to
47 provide services during any such public use, including, but not limited
48 to, catering services. Such fees, procedures and criteria shall be
49 effective until June 30, 1999, or until regulations are adopted,
50 whichever is sooner. Regulations implementing such fees, procedures
51 and criteria shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of
52 chapter 54 on or before July 1, 1999. Such fees shall be comparable with
53 rents and charges of similar properties based on fair market rates.

54 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any person
55 who rents a venue at a state park or other facility to utilize the services
56 of any caterer who may otherwise have a contract with the
57 commissioner to provide catering services at such venue, provided if
58 the caterer of such person's choice is not approved to otherwise
59 provide such catering services at such facility, such person may
60 provide information required by the commissioner for such approval
61 not later than twelve months prior to the date of such rental for review
62 and approval by the commissioner.

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

75 (d) The commissioner shall issue to any resident of the state who is
76 sixty-five years of age or older and to any resident of this state who is a
77 disabled veteran, as defined in section 14-254, or under federal law,
78 without fee, upon application of such resident, a nontransferable
79 lifetime pass which shall permit free admission and boat access
80 parking for use at any state park, forest or state recreational facility,
81 provided the commissioner shall not be required to issue such a pass
82 for use of any park, forest or facility which is wholly managed by a
83 private concessionaire and may require payment of fees for special
84 events.

85 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, any person with a
86 valid Connecticut motor vehicle license plate shall not pay a parking

87 fee at any state park, forest or other state recreational facility on and
88 after January 1, 2018.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	23-26
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ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*