

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-238
AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENT RELATED
Title: STATUTES.
Vote Date: 3/18/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/7/2022
File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Maria P. Horn, 64th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To make revisions to various programs administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

JOINT FAVORABLE SUBSTITUTE:

LCO 3635 Made a technical correction. Amendment adopted during the committee meeting struck sec. 12 regarding fees for general permits.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner of DEEP

SB 238 makes several revisions *to environmental* statutes intended to streamline and improve DEEP's *programs and processes*. To make sure that all of our environmental and conservation programs and Regulations are carried out in an efficient, transparent, and predictable manner, to facilitate compliance and utilize limited resources in the most effective way.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Thomas Brady, Executive Director, Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission

We support the addition of the Compact liability language to the existing statute in Section 5 and the other is to clarify language in existing legislation that would allow "state temporary emergency firefighters" to be used outside of CT in Section 6.

Patrick M. Comins, Executive Director, CT Audubon Society

We support SB238 and of particular interest to the CT Audubon Society are sections 5, 7, 8, and 9 which pertain to fire protection and the Connecticut Forest Practices Act. I sit on the Connecticut Forest Practices Advisory Board and these provisions have been reviewed and endorsed by the Board. Of particular importance is the need to clarify appointment authorities for the Board.

Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association

SB 238 is critical to ensure the forest practitioners who work in Connecticut are professionally licensed, meet ongoing continuing education requirements, and adhere to important forest practice standards that protect natural resources.

Brennan Sheahan, President, Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association

This DEEP Agency bill has been before the State legislature for many years but hasn't had the support to become law. CT TIMPRO strongly asks that the Environment Committee vote this bill out of Committee. It is very important to the Connecticut forest products industry.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Ashley Zane, Government Affairs Associate, CBIA

CBIA is opposed to Section 12 of SB 238 because this section of the bill would allow DEEP to charge an annual fee for any general permit issued by the department after October 1, 2022. Connecticut is already known for its high cost of doing business and regulatory oversight. We should look to other states who, in some instances, require the entity to cover cost of sampling. These costs could be less than or equivalent of annual fees suggested in Section 12.

Reported by: Judith Ganswindt

Date: April 1, 2022