



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 5506

LCO No. 1707



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:

REP. D'AGOSTINO, 91st Dist.

REP. LEEPER, 132nd Dist.

REP. HORN, 64th Dist.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES TO GOVERN VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS.**

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

- 1 That section 13a-140 of the general statutes be amended to require (1)
- 2 a certified arborist employed by the Department of Transportation or
- 3 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to review and
- 4 approve any tree removal performed pursuant to said section, except in
- 5 cases where the Commissioner of Transportation determines such tree
- 6 removal is necessary to address an immediate threat to public safety or
- 7 is to be performed during a weather-related civil preparedness
- 8 emergency declared pursuant to section 28-9 of the general statutes; (2)
- 9 the commissioner to publish, annually, the amount of money spent on
- 10 tree removal performed pursuant to section 13a-140 of the general
- 11 statutes; (3) the commissioner to publish a schedule of work to be
- 12 performed pursuant to said section at least four weeks prior to
- 13 performing such work; (4) the commissioner to notify the tree wardens
- 14 of any municipalities where any such tree removal is proposed to be

15 performed at least four weeks prior to performing such work, except in
16 cases where the commissioner determines such tree removal is
17 necessary to address an immediate threat to public safety or is to be
18 performed during a weather-related civil preparedness emergency
19 declared pursuant to section 28-9 of the general statutes; and (5) the
20 commissioner to plan for, plant and care for replacement trees, shrubs
21 or other vegetation where trees are removed pursuant to section 13a-140
22 of the general statutes in order to prevent erosion, flooding, standing
23 water and the spread of invasive vegetation and to remove wood chips
24 and other debris caused by such removal.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish guidelines that govern vegetation management along state highways by the Department of Transportation.