



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 373

LCO No. 1823



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:
(APP)

AN ACT CONCERNING PARKS INCLUDED IN THE PASSPORT TO THE PARKS PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-15h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) There is established an account to be known as the Passport to the
4 Parks account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the
5 General Fund. Moneys in such account shall be used (1) to provide
6 expenses of the Council on Environmental Quality, beginning with the
7 fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, [and] (2) for the care, maintenance,
8 operation and improvement of (A) state parks, [and] (B) state
9 campgrounds, (C) Batterson Park, and (D) Thames River Heritage Park,
10 (3) for the funding of soil and water conservation districts, and (4) for
11 the funding of environmental review teams, in accordance with
12 subsection (b) of this section. All funds collected from the Passport to
13 the Parks Fee established pursuant to section 14-49b shall be deposited
14 into the Passport to the Parks account. Such account shall contain all
15 moneys required by law to be deposited in such account. Such account

16 may receive funds from private or public sources, including, but not
17 limited to, any municipal government or the federal government. Such
18 account shall contain subaccounts as required by section 23-15b.

19 (b) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and each fiscal year
20 thereafter, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars shall be paid by the
21 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection from the Passport
22 to the Parks account to each of the following entities: (1) The Connecticut
23 River Coastal Conservation District, (2) the Eastern Conservation
24 District, (3) the North Central Conservation District, (4) the Northwest
25 Conservation District, (5) the Southwest Conservation District, (6) the
26 Connecticut Environmental Review Team, and (7) the Connecticut
27 Council on Water and Soil Conservation.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2024</i> | 23-15h |

Statement of Purpose:

To include Batterson Park and Thames River Heritage Park in the Passport to the Parks Program.

[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.]