



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6250

LCO No. 4868



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEVELS OF STAFFING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OFFICERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
4 appoint such number of conservation officers as may be necessary for
5 the efficient execution of the duties of the department under section 26-
6 6, provided the commissioner shall receive and consider a
7 recommendation for such number of appointments, not less than once
8 every two years, from the Connecticut Conservation Officers
9 Association. Such recommendation shall be: (1) Based on a review of the
10 duties established in section 26-6 and any enhancement of such duties
11 since the issuance of the most recent such recommendation, and (2)
12 submitted by the commissioner to the joint standing committee of the
13 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
14 environment. The commissioner may supplement the regular
15 conservation officer force by appointing as special conservation officer
16 any employee of the department or any sworn federal law enforcement

17 officer of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine
18 Fisheries Service, provided such federal officer shall not be considered
19 an employee of the state and may only exercise such officer's authority
20 pursuant to section 26-6 when working with a full-time conservation
21 officer. The commissioner may also appoint any lake patrolman as a
22 special conservation officer solely for the purpose of enforcing boating
23 laws within such patrolman's jurisdiction, provided such patrolman
24 shall not be considered an employee of the state, and further provided
25 that such patrolman has completed a police training course at a Police
26 Officer Standards and Training Council approved training academy.
27 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no such lake patrolman
28 shall carry a firearm while in the performance of such patrolman's
29 duties as a special conservation officer unless the board of selectmen of
30 the town or towns in which the lake on which the lake patrolman serves
31 is located approves such carrying of a firearm, or in the case of any town
32 having no board of selectmen, the lake patrolman obtains the approval
33 of the legislative body of such town or towns in which the lake is
34 located. Each conservation officer shall be certified by the Police Officer
35 Standards and Training Council in accordance with the provisions of
36 section 7-294d not later than one year after appointment. Each special
37 conservation officer shall be certified by the Police Officer Standards
38 and Training Council in accordance with the provisions of section 7-
39 294d or complete an equivalent course approved by the Commissioner
40 of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Special conservation
41 officers who are employees of the department shall be entitled to the
42 same benefits to which conservation officers are entitled under the
43 provisions of section 5-142, and such an appointment shall be deemed
44 not to be in conflict with any of the provisions of chapter 67. In addition
45 to their salaries, conservation officers and special conservation officers
46 who are employees of the department shall be reimbursed for all
47 expenses incurred in performance of official duty.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-5
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Statement of Purpose:

To provide for a full staff of environmental conservation officers necessary for the enforcement of environmental regulations.

[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: REP. CHAFEE, 33rd Dist.; REP. GRESKO, 121st Dist.

H.B. 6250