

General Assembly

January Session, 2023

## Substitute Bill No. 1146

## AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

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 Section 26-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):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. The commissioner may supplement the regular conservation officer 7 force by appointing as special conservation officer any employee of the 8 department or any sworn federal law enforcement officer of the United 9 States Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service, 10 provided such federal officer shall not be considered an employee of the 11 state and may only exercise such officer's authority pursuant to section 12 26-6 when working with a full-time conservation officer. The 13 commissioner may also appoint any lake patrolman as a special 14 conservation officer solely for the purpose of enforcing boating laws 15 within such patrolman's jurisdiction, provided such patrolman shall not 16 be considered an employee of the state, and further provided that such 17 patrolman has completed a police training course at [the state police

18 training school or an equivalent course approved by the Commissioner 19 of Emergency Services and Public Protection] a Police Officer Standards 20 and Training Council approved training academy. Notwithstanding the 21 provisions of this section, no such lake patrolman shall carry a firearm 22 while in the performance of [his or her] such patrolman's duties as a 23 special conservation officer unless the board of selectmen of the town or 24 towns in which the lake on which the lake patrolman serves is located 25 approves such carrying of a firearm, or in the case of any town having 26 no board of selectmen, the lake patrolman obtains the approval of the 27 legislative body of such town or towns in which the lake is located. Each 28 conservation officer [or special conservation officer] shall [complete a 29 police training course at the state police training school or an equivalent 30 course approved by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and 31 Public Protection] be certified by the Police Officer Standards and 32 Training Council in accordance with the provisions of section 7-294d not 33 later than one year after appointment. Each special conservation officer 34 shall be certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council 35 in accordance with the provisions of section 7-294d or complete an 36 equivalent course approved by the Commissioner of Emergency 37 Services and Public Protection. Special conservation officers who are 38 employees of the department shall be entitled to the same benefits to 39 which conservation officers are entitled under the provisions of section 40 5-142, and such an appointment shall be deemed not to be in conflict 41 with any of the provisions of chapter 67. In addition to their salaries, 42 conservation officers and special conservation officers who are 43 employees of the department shall be reimbursed for all expenses 44 incurred in performance of official duty.

45 Sec. 2. Section 26-113 of the general statutes is repealed and the 46 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

47 Notice of such hearing shall be [advertised in one or more
48 newspapers having a general circulation in each of the counties of the
49 state or in the locality where such waters are situated] posted on the
50 eRegulations System and on the Department of Energy and

51 Environmental Protection's Internet web site. The Commissioner of 52 Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, 53 shall provide a copy of such notice to each municipality where such 54 waters are located for publication of such notice on the Internet web site 55 of each such municipality. Such notice shall specify the time, not less 56 than fourteen days thereafter, the agenda and the place designated by 57 the commissioner at which such hearing shall be held, and at which persons having an interest therein will have an opportunity to be heard. 58 59 The commissioner or [his] the commissioner's designated representative 60 shall conduct such hearing and cause a record thereof to be made. After 61 such notice and hearing the commissioner shall issue [his] such 62 regulations based upon standards of sound fisheries management 63 including the following: (a) Scientific and factual findings of a biological 64 nature; (b) the availability of the species involved; (c) unusual weather 65 conditions and special hazards; (d) the available supply of food and 66 natural cover; (e) the general condition of the waters; (f) the control of 67 the species; (g) the number of permits issued; (h) the area available; (i) 68 the rights and privileges of sportsmen, landowners and the general 69 public; (j) the problem of providing and perpetuating a sound program 70 of fisheries management and a sound recreational program consistent 71 with the availability of the species.

Sec. 3. Section 26-159c of the general statutes is repealed and the
following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

74 Prior to the adoption of any regulation under subsection (g) of section 75 26-142a or section 26-159a, the commissioner or [his] the commissioner's 76 designated representative shall conduct a public hearing or hearings in 77 those coastal areas where persons substantially affected by such 78 regulation and having an interest therein may be heard. The 79 commissioner shall cause notice of such hearing or hearings to be 80 [published at least once not more than thirty days and not fewer than 81 ten days before the date set for such hearing or hearings in a newspaper 82 or newspapers having general circulation in those areas which may be 83 affected by such regulation] posted on the eRegulations System and on

the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Internet web
site not fewer than fourteen days prior to the date set for such hearing
or hearings. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall
provide a copy of such notice to all coastal municipalities with persons
who may be substantially affected by such regulations for publication
of such notice on the Internet web site of each such municipality.

90 Sec. 4. Section 26-102 of the general statutes is repealed and the 91 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

92 The commissioner may establish fish spawning areas and refuges on 93 any waters; and [he] the commissioner may establish closed areas and 94 safety zones on public lands and waters and, with the consent of the 95 owner, on private lands and waters, and close any such area to fishing 96 and trespassing. The commissioner shall have emergency authority to 97 declare a closed season on any regulated species [of fish] threatened 98 with undue depletion from any cause and, the provisions of section 26-99 116, as amended by this act, notwithstanding, if such cause is any 100 person, firm or corporation engaged in commercial fishing activity, the 101 commissioner shall have the additional emergency power to establish 102 prescribed conditions for the operation of such commercial fishing activity, or suspend or prohibit the right of such person, firm or 103 104 corporation to operate within such waters for such period of time as the 105 commissioner deems necessary. The commissioner may, if [he] the 106 commissioner deems it necessary, close any waters, or portions thereof, 107 in the inland district to fishing for limited periods of time.

Sec. 5. Section 26-116 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The provisions of sections [26-102 and] 26-111 to 26-117, inclusive, shall not apply to the taking of fish for commercial purposes and shall not affect any statute regulating fishing in any lake, pond or reservoir used for domestic water supply, nor shall any action be taken under the provisions of said sections which will unreasonably interfere with the proper management of a public water supply system. 116 Sec. 6. Section 26-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the 117 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

118 No person shall take or attempt to take any fish [, with the exception 119 of lamprey eels during the open season for the same,] within two 120 hundred fifty feet of any fishway, except that the commissioner when 121 [he] <u>the commissioner</u> deems necessary may extend or reduce such 122 distance and shall indicate such other distance by posting.

Sec. 7. Section 26-142b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "active" with regard to a principal
commercial fishing license, general commercial fishing license or
commercial lobster pot fishing license means that the license has been
renewed in the current year.

129 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commissioner 130 of Energy and Environmental Protection may reissue an active principal 131 commercial fishing license, general commercial fishing license or 132 commercial lobster pot fishing license in the event the license holder is 133 temporarily incapacitated and unable to operate a vessel or perform 134 other necessary functions associated with commercial fishing or in the 135 event a license holder is unable to conduct commercial fishing due to 136 exigencies related to medical care of an immediate family member. Such 137 temporary license may only be issued to a member of such 138 [incapacitated] license holder's immediate family or to a member of such 139 [incapacitated] license holder's crew, as designated by such license 140 holder, for the duration of such license holder's incapacity or [twelve 141 consecutive months, whichever is the shorter period] exigencies related to medical care of an immediate family member of such license holder. 142 143 Such temporary license shall be subject to the provisions of section 26-144 142a. Landings during the period of such temporary license reissue may 145 be used to satisfy the requirements for license transfer in subsection (c) 146 of this section, provided the licensee met all such requirements for 147 transfer at the time of such temporary reissue.

(c) The commissioner may authorize the transfer of an active 148 149 principal commercial fishing license, general commercial fishing license 150 or commercial lobster pot fishing license, issued pursuant to subsection (f) of section 26-142a, provided: (1) For purposes of an active resident-151 152 held principal or general commercial fishing license or commercial 153 lobster pot fishing license: (A) The person receiving the license in such 154 transfer is a resident of this state, and (B) the person transferring the 155 license held the license and landed regulated species or owned a vessel 156 that landed regulated species under the privilege of a quota-managed 157 species endorsement associated with the license in at least five of the 158 eight calendar years preceding the transfer request and [reported] such 159 landings were reported to the commissioner, pursuant to section 26-160 157b, for not less than thirty fishing days in each year, or (2) for purposes of an active nonresident-held principal or general commercial fishing 161 162 license or commercial lobster pot fishing license: The person 163 transferring the license held the license and landed regulated species or 164 owned a vessel that landed regulated species under the privilege of a quota-managed species endorsement associated with the license in at 165 166 least five of the eight calendar years preceding the transfer request and 167 [reported] such landings were reported to the commissioner, pursuant 168 to section 26-157b, for not less than thirty fishing days in each year. Such 169 landings shall be verified by seafood dealer reports submitted pursuant 170 to section 26-157b. The recipient of a transferred commercial lobster pot 171 fishing license or principal commercial fishing license shall be limited to the number of lobster pots allocated to such license, except a transferee 172 173 who currently holds a commercial lobster pot fishing license, issued pursuant to subsection (f) of section 26-142a, shall be limited to the 174 175 number of pots allocated to such person's currently held commercial 176 lobster pot fishing license or principal commercial fishing license or to 177 the transferred license, whichever is greater. The length of any 178 commercial fishing vessel used by the recipient of a transferred license 179 to fish with a trawl net in the waters of this state shall be not more than 180 [ten] twenty per cent greater than the length of the largest vessel used 181 by the person transferring the license during such qualifying period.

(d) (1) In the event of the death of the holder of an active principal
commercial fishing license, general commercial fishing license or
commercial lobster pot fishing license, the commissioner may authorize
the transfer of such license pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, for
a period of two years from the date of death of such license holder.

187 (2) If the deceased license holder held such license for a period of less 188 than five complete calendar years, the commissioner may authorize the 189 transfer of such license (A) subject to the provisions of this section, and 190 (B) provided the deceased license holder landed regulated species or 191 owned a vessel that landed regulated species under the privilege of a 192 quota-managed species endorsement associated with the license in each 193 calendar year during which the deceased license holder held the license 194 for six months or longer, and (C) provided such landings were reported 195 to the commissioner by the deceased license holder, pursuant to section 26-157b, for not less than thirty fishing days in each year. 196

(e) Upon transfer of a license, the original license holder shall become
ineligible to obtain a renewal of that license. Such original license holder
may acquire a new license through a subsequent license transfer.

(f) A transfer of a license under this section shall not be made while a
commercial fishery license, registration or vessel permit held by the
transferor or transferee is under suspension and a transfer shall not be
authorized for any transferee who has had a commercial fishery license,
registration or vessel permit revoked or suspended within the preceding
twelve months.

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 22a-6g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any person who submits an application to the Commissioner of
Energy and Environmental Protection for any permit or other license
pursuant to section 22a-32, 22a-39, 22a-174, 22a-208a, 22a-342, 22a-361,
22a-368, 22a-403 or 22a-430, subsection (b) or (c) of section 22a-449,

213 section 22a-454 or Section 401 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act 214 (33 USC 466 et seq.), except an application for authorization under a 215 general permit shall: (1) Publish notice of such application in a 216 newspaper of general circulation in the affected area or on the Internet 217 web site used for local land use decisions in the municipality where such 218 property is located. Such notice shall also be published on the Internet 219 web site of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; (2) 220 notify the chief elected official of the municipality in which the 221 regulated activity is proposed; and (3) include with such application a 222 copy of such notice as it appeared in the newspaper or municipal land 223 use Internet web site and a signed statement certifying that the applicant 224 notified the chief elected official of the municipality in which such 225 regulated activity is proposed. Such notices shall include: (A) The name 226 and mailing address of the applicant and the address of the location at 227 which the proposed activity will take place; (B) the application number, 228 if available; (C) the type of permit sought, including a reference to the 229 applicable statute or regulation; (D) a description of the activity for 230 which a permit is sought; (E) a description of the location of the 231 proposed activity and any natural resources affected thereby; (F) the 232 name, address and telephone number of any agent of the applicant from 233 whom interested persons may obtain copies of the application; and (G) 234 a statement that the application is available for inspection at the office 235 of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The 236 commissioner shall not process an application until the applicant has 237 submitted to the commissioner a copy of the notice and the signed 238 statement required by this section. Any person who submits an 239 application pursuant to section 22a-32 or 22a-361 shall additionally mail 240 such notice to any land owner of record for any property that is located five hundred feet or less from the property line of the property on which 241 242 such proposed activity will occur. The provisions of this section shall 243 not apply to discharges exempted from the notice requirement by the 244 commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of section 22a-430, to 245 hazardous waste transporter permits issued pursuant to section 22a-454 246 or to special waste authorizations issued pursuant to section 22a-209 247 and regulations adopted thereunder.

Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 22a-6h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

251 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, at 252 least thirty days before approving or denying an application under 253 section 22a-32, 22a-39, 22a-174, 22a-208a, 22a-342, 22a-361, 22a-368, 22a-254 403 or 22a-430, subsection (b) or (c) of section 22a-449, section 22a-454 or 255 Section 401 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC 466 et 256 seq.), shall publish or cause to be published, at the applicant's expense, 257 once in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the affected area 258 or, if such application pertains to a single-family residential property, 259 on the Internet web site used for local land use decisions in the 260 municipality where such property is located and on the Internet web 261 site of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection notice 262 of the commissioner's tentative determination regarding such 263 application. Such notice shall include: (1) The name and mailing address 264 of the applicant and the address of the location of the proposed activity; 265 (2) the application number; (3) the tentative decision regarding the 266 application; (4) the type of permit or other authorization sought, including a reference to the applicable statute or regulation; (5) a 267 268 description of the location of the proposed activity and any natural 269 resources affected thereby; (6) the name, address and telephone number 270 of any agent of the applicant from whom interested persons may obtain 271 copies of the application; (7) a brief description of all opportunities for 272 public participation provided by statute or regulation, including the 273 length of time available for submission of public comments to the 274 commissioner on the application; and (8) such additional information as 275 the commissioner deems necessary to comply with any provision of this 276 title or regulations adopted hereunder, or with the federal Clean Air 277 Act, federal Clean Water Act or federal Resource Conservation and 278 Recovery Act. The commissioner shall further give notice of such 279 determination to the chief elected official of the municipality in which 280 the regulated activity is proposed. Nothing in this section shall preclude 281 the commissioner from giving such additional notice as may be required

by any other provision of this title or regulations adopted hereunder, or 282 283 by the federal Clean Air Act, federal Clean Water Act or federal 284 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The provisions of this section 285 shall not apply to discharges exempted from the notice requirement by 286 the commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of section 22a-430, to 287 hazardous waste transporter permits issued pursuant to section 22a-454 288 or to special waste authorizations issued pursuant to section 22a-209 289 and regulations adopted thereunder.

290 Sec. 10. Section 7-131g of the general statutes is repealed and the 291 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

292 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may 293 make grants under the open space and watershed land acquisition 294 program to: (1) Municipalities for acquisition of land for open space 295 under subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of section 7-296 131d in an amount not to exceed sixty-five per cent of the fair market 297 value of a parcel of land or interest in land proposed to be acquired; (2) 298 municipalities for acquisition of land for class I and class II water supply 299 protection under subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of said section 7-131d, 300 as amended by this act, in an amount not to exceed sixty-five per cent of 301 such value; (3) nonprofit land conservation organizations for acquisition 302 of land for open space or watershed protection under subdivisions (1) 303 to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of said section 7-131d, as amended by 304 this act, in an amount not to exceed sixty-five per cent of such value; (4) 305 water companies for acquisition of land under subdivision (7) of 306 subsection (b) of said section 7-131d, as amended by this act, in an 307 amount not to exceed sixty-five per cent of such value provided if such 308 a company proposes in a grant application that it intends to allow access 309 to such land for recreational uses, such company shall seek approval of 310 the Commissioner of Public Health for such access; and (5) distressed 311 municipalities or targeted investment communities, as defined in 312 section 32-9p, or, with the approval of the chief elected official or 313 governing legislative body of such a municipality or community, to a 314 nonprofit land conservation organization or water company, for

315 acquisition of land within that municipality or community, for open 316 space under subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of said 317 section 7-131d, as amended by this act, in an amount not to exceed seventy-five per cent of such value or for performance of work in the 318 319 restoration, enhancement or protection of resources in an amount not to 320 exceed fifty per cent of the cost of such work. Applicants for grants 321 under the program shall provide a copy of the application to the 322 chairperson of the review board established under section 7-131e. The 323 board shall provide comments to the commissioner on pending 324 applications as it deems necessary.

325 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the fair market value of land or 326 interest in land shall be determined by one or more appraisals 327 satisfactory to the commissioner and shall not include incidental costs, 328 including, but not limited to, surveying, development or closing costs. 329 The commissioner may consider a portion of the fair market value of a 330 donation of land by an entity receiving a grant as a portion of the 331 matching funds required under this subsection. A grantee may use 332 funds made available by the state, pursuant to subsection (a) of this 333 section, and the federal government to fund not more than ninety per 334 cent of the fair market value of any project funded under the program, 335 except the commissioner may authorize a grantee to use such state funds 336 provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any funds made 337 available by the federal government to fund one hundred per cent of the 338 fair market value of any project funded under said program if the 339 commissioner determines that any of the following conditions exist: (1) 340 The grantee committed or expended significant resources, including, 341 but not limited to, payment of such incidental costs, toward the 342 acquisition and preservation in perpetuity of such land; (2) that the 343 grantee committed or expended significant resources for the care, 344 maintenance or preservation of such land that was consistent with the 345 intent of the open space and watershed land acquisition program, as 346 described in section 7-131d, as amended by this act; (3) that such project 347 will provide a significant recreational opportunity or natural resource 348 protection for the state and is consistent with: (A) The criteria of

subsections (b) and (c) of section 7-131d, as amended by this act; (B) the 349 350 additional considerations set forth in subsection (a) of section 7-131e; and (C) any written guidelines developed by the commissioner 351 352 pursuant to said subsection; or (4) that such project is located in an area 353 of the state with a limited amount of land available for such recreational 354 opportunity or natural resource protection and is consistent with: (A) The criteria of subsections (b) and (c) of section 7-131d, as amended by 355 this act; (B) the additional considerations set forth in subsection (a) of 356 357 section 7-131e, except equitable geographic distribution of such grants; and (C) any written guidelines developed by the commissioner 358 359 pursuant to said subsection.

360 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (3) of subsection 361 (c) of section 7-131d, as amended by this act, any land that is the subject 362 of the execution or recording of a conservation easement or restriction that resulted from a federally funded land conservation program, 363 364 municipal conservation grant program or a private conservation grant program, prior to the recording of a permanent conservation easement 365 366 described in subsection (e) of section 7-131d, shall not be construed to 367 constitute land that has already been committed for public use, 368 provided:

369 (1) Such prior conservation easement or restriction is executed after 370 the execution of the grant agreement for a grant to preserve such land 371 under the provisions of this section, (2) at the time of the recording of 372 the permanent conservation easement required pursuant to subsection (e) of section 7-131d, any nonfederal holder of any such prior easement 373 374 subordinates such holder's interests in the land to the interests of the 375 state, (3) such other federal funds, municipal grant funds or private 376 grant funds are used as matching funds for a grant issued under this 377 section, and (4) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental 378 Protection determines, based on all pertinent circumstances, that the 379 conveyance of such other conservation easement or restriction, in 380 combination with the acquisition of the state's interest under this 381 section, constitutes one concurrent acquisition of property or interests

382 <u>therein.</u>

383 [(c)] (d) To the extent there is a balance of bonds authorized but not 384 allocated by the State Bond Commission on or after July 1, 1998, 385 pursuant to any bond act for the purposes of (1) the recreation and 386 natural heritage trust program established under sections 23-73 to 23-387 79, inclusive, and (2) the municipal open space grant program 388 established under sections 7-131c to 7-131g, inclusive, as amended by 389 this act, the State Bond Commission shall authorize the issuance of such 390 balance only for the purposes described in section 23-74 and sections 23-391 75 and 7-131d, as amended by this act, and in two substantially equal 392 installments one in each half of the fiscal year commencing with the 393 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999.

Sec. 11. Subsection (c) of section 7-131d of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

397 (c) No grant may be made under the protected open space and 398 watershed land acquisition grant program established under subsection 399 (a) of this section or under the Charter Oak open space grant program 400 established under section 7-131t for: (1) Land to be used for commercial 401 purposes or for recreational purposes requiring intensive development, 402 including, but not limited to, golf courses, driving ranges, tennis courts, 403 ballfields, swimming pools and uses by motorized vehicles other than 404 vehicles needed by water companies to carry out their purposes, 405 provided trails or pathways for pedestrians, motorized wheelchairs or 406 nonmotorized vehicles shall not be considered intensive development; 407 (2) land with environmental contamination over a significant portion of 408 the property provided grants for land requiring remediation of 409 environmental contamination may be made if remediation will be 410 completed before acquisition of the land or any interest in the land and 411 an environmental assessment approved by the Commissioner of Energy 412 Environmental Protection has been completed and no and 413 environmental use restriction applies to the land; (3) land which has 414 already been committed for public use, except as provided in subsection

415 (c) of section 7-131g, as amended by this act; (4) development costs, 416 including, but not limited to, construction of ballfields, tennis courts, 417 parking lots or roadways; (5) land to be acquired by eminent domain; or (6) reimbursement of in-kind services or incidental expenses associated 418 419 with the acquisition of land. This subsection shall not prohibit the 420 continuation of agricultural activity, the activities of a water company 421 for public water supply purposes or the selling of timber incidental to 422 management of the land which management is in accordance with 423 approved forest management practices provided any proceeds of such 424 timber sales shall be used for management of the land. In the case of 425 land acquired under this section which is designated as a state park, any 426 fees charged by the state for use of such land shall be used by the state 427 in accordance with the provisions of title 23.

sections:		
Section 1	from passage	26-5
Sec. 2	from passage	26-113
Sec. 3	from passage	26-159c
Sec. 4	from passage	26-102
Sec. 5	from passage	26-116
Sec. 6	from passage	26-137
Sec. 7	from passage	26-142b
Sec. 8	from passage	22a-6g(a)
Sec. 9	from passage	22a-6h(a)
Sec. 10	from passage	7-131g
Sec. 11	from passage	7-131d(c)

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

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.