



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 Section 26-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-5
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**ENV**      *Joint Favorable*