
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5388

AN ACT CONCERNING FISHING AND HUNTING RIGHTS OF CERTAIN NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES.

SUMMARY

This bill reduces, from 250 to 10 acres, the required minimum size of an Indian's reservation in order for the Indian to qualify for a free private land deer permit from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to take (e.g., hunt, kill, or capture) deer on the tribe's reservation land. As under existing law, an Indian can only be issued one private land deer permit per season, and the permit must allow for the use of rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow on the reservation from November 1 until December 31 (i.e. the same season and weapons allowed for certain landowners with private land deer permits).

The bill also requires DEEP to develop a ceremonial taking permit, under which an Indian may take an animal on state lands for ceremonial purposes. The permit must be free and allow for only one taking of an animal that is otherwise allowed to be taken on state lands.

By law, an "Indian" is a person who is a member of the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, Mashantucket Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, or Mohegan tribe (CGS § 47-63).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/28/2025)