
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 319 (File 458, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING BATTERY-POWERED LAWN EQUIPMENT FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES, REGIONAL SCHOOLS AND COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Connecticut Green Bank, by January 31, 2028, to create a loan program or financing product to help registered commercial landscapers buy or lease battery-operated lawn equipment. The Green Bank must administer the program for at least three years and, at the end of the three-year period, may choose whether to continue the program. It must also use its existing statutory authority and access to capital, as well as lending partnerships, to create the loan program or products.

The bill also requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to reactivate the 2010 Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund for municipalities and regional school districts. (It appears that in 2010 DEEP used funds from an interstate pollution case settlement to partially reimburse certain municipalities and school districts for replacing their lawn and ground maintenance equipment with versions that emitted less pollutants. The 2010 program was not established in law and its original fund no longer exists, so it is unclear if the bill's intent is to establish a similar reimbursement program or to establish a new, similar fund.)

*Senate Amendment "A" adds the requirement for the Green Bank to administer the loan program for at least three years and allows it to decide whether to continue the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision reactivating the Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund is effective October 1, 2027.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 8 (03/18/2026)