

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5153

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RELATED STATUTES.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 5007

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OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$	FY 29 \$
Local and Regional School Districts; Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Cost	None	See Below	See Below

Explanation

Section 501 makes procedural changes to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) general permitting and does not result in a fiscal impact.

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

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(SM)

Section 502 requires all single-use food service items to only be provided upon request or through the use of a dispenser. This results in a potential minimal cost to the state and local and regional school districts.

Section 503 requires any entity subject to the organic material source-separating provision to prioritize donating excess food for human consumption before other alternatives. This results in a potential cost to all municipalities and school districts that produce more than 26 tons of organic waste annually. This potential cost is associated with: (1) additional equipment (e.g., refrigerators) needed for safely storing food; and (2) transportation and personnel costs for distributing food for donation.

Section 504 expands and clarifies various eligible grant recipients within a DEEP program and does not result in a fiscal impact.

Sections 505 - 508 make various changes that limit activities across the state to prevent wildfires. The amendment prohibits open brush burning within 100 feet of a woodland or grass land area when the DEEP commissioner identifies the forest fire risk as high or very high and extends the length of time the state forest fire warden may approve reimbursement for various emergency services. These procedural changes do not result in a fiscal impact as the agency currently has the ability to provide reimbursements beyond the one-month deadline.

Additionally, the amendment (1) broadens the Governor's authority to ban access to and burning on certain woodlands and brushlands, and (2) increases the fine for violating a ban from a minimum of \$5 and a maximum of \$100, to a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1,000, resulting in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund beginning in FY 27². The extent of the revenue gain will depend on whether the governor enacts such a prohibition, the number of violations, and the fines imposed, with a minimum potential revenue gain of \$400 per

² In the past four years, no person has been charged or fined under CGS 23-50

violation.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.