



Connecticut Greenways Council

c/o CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/

1 March 2016

Dear CT Legislator: RE: Proposed Connecticut Greenways Legislation

Background: Funds obtained from the sale of "Greenways" motor vehicle license plates originally were designated to be used for the development, construction and maintenance of greenways in Connecticut. For many years these revenues have been redirected into the General Fund. This re-worded legislation would return those monies and address this issue.

PUBLIC ACT NO. 97-236: AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Sec. 19. (NEW) (Formerly Sec. 22a-27o.) (a) There is established an account to be known as the "Greenways Account". The Greenways Account shall be a **separate, non-lapsing account** of the Conservation Fund established under Section 22a-27h of the General Statutes. **Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund and credited to the Greenways Account.** Any balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The account shall be available: (1) to the Commissioner of Energy & Environmental Protection for reimbursement of the Department of Motor Vehicles for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing and replacing greenways commemorative number plates, including administrative expenses, pursuant to Section 18 of this Act and (2) to the Commissioner of Energy & Environmental Protection for grants pursuant to Section 23-101 of the general statutes. (b) The Commissioner of Energy & Environmental Protection may receive private donations to the Greenways Account and any such receipts shall be deposited in the account. (c) The Commissioner of Energy & Environmental Protection may provide for the reproduction and marketing of the greenways commemorative number plate image for use on clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementoes, or other products or programs deemed by the commissioner to be suitable as a means of supporting the Greenways Account. Any funds received by the commissioner from such marketing shall be deposited in the Greenways Account.

I. Existing Related Legislation (Background)

Sec. 23-100. Definitions. As used in sections 23-101, 23-102, 32-6a, 32-9qq, 32-327 and 32-228, "greenway" means a corridor of open space that

(1) may protect natural resources, preserve scenic landscapes and historical resources or offer opportunities for recreation or nonmotorized transportation,

(2) may connect existing protected areas and provide access to the outdoors,
(3) may be located along a defining natural feature, such as a waterway, along a man-made corridor, including an unused right-of-way, traditional trail routes or historic barge canals or
(4) may be a greenspace along a highway or around a village. (P.A. 95-335, S. 1, 26.) History: P.A. 95-335 effective July 1, 1995.

Sec. 23-101. Greenways capital grant program. Greenways small grants program. Regulations. (a) There is established a greenways capital grant program that shall be administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. Grants may be made to municipalities and other organizations for the purpose of providing matching funds to develop greenways, including, but not limited to, transportation-related greenways supported by the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, as amended from time to time. The amount of any grant shall be as follows:

(1) For transportation greenways projects that are part of interstate greenways, not more than twenty per cent of the project cost; and
(2) for transportation greenways projects that are local spurs from interstate greenways or that are intertown greenways projects, not more than ten per cent of the project cost; and
(3) for greenways that are not transportation greenways, not more than half of the capital costs of the project. (b) There is established a greenways small grants program which shall be administered by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. The commissioner may, within available appropriations, make a grant to any municipality, regional planning agency organized under the provisions of chapter 127, any regional council of elected officials organized under the provisions of chapter 50, or any regional council of government organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, and nongovernmental organizations for planning, design and implementation of greenway projects. Any grant shall be not more than five thousand dollars and the total amount of all grants under this subsection shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars in any fiscal year. Land acquisition costs shall not be eligible for reimbursement with grants under this section. (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to implement this section. (P.A. 95-335, S. 2, 26; P.A. 00-148, S. 15.) History: P.A. 95-335 effective July 1, 1995; P.A. 00-148 amended Subsec. (a) by changing "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991" to "Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century" and by making a technical change.

Sec. 23-102. Connecticut Greenways Council. (a) There shall be a Connecticut Greenways Council which shall be within the Department of Environmental Protection for administrative purposes only. The council shall consist of eleven members, five to be appointed by the Governor, one to be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one to be appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one to be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one to be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one to be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives and one to be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate. All appointments to the council shall be made on or before October 1, 1995. Three of the members initially appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of two years and two of the members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of four years. All members appointed by the Governor thereafter shall serve a term of four years. The terms of all members appointed by members of the General Assembly shall be coterminous with the terms of members of the General Assembly. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancy by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term vacated. The chairman of said council shall be selected by the Governor. Members of said council shall receive no compensation for their services on the council. The council shall hold one meeting each quarter and such additional meetings as may be prescribed by council rules. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or by any three members upon delivery of forty-eight hours' written notice to each member. The

council may employ an executive director, exclusive of the provisions of chapter 67, and such additional staff and contractors and consultants as may be necessary to carry out its duties and may share the personnel and resources of the council on environmental quality, within available appropriations. The council may receive aid or contributions from any source, including grants-in-aid from any state agency. (b) The duties of the council shall be: (1) To advise and assist in the coordination of state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in voluntarily planning and implementing a system of greenways; (2) to operate a greenways help center to advise state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in the technical aspects of planning, designing and implementing greenways, including advice on securing state, federal and nongovernmental grants; (3) to establish criteria for designation of greenways; (4) to maintain an inventory of greenways in the state which shall include the location of greenways transportation projects which have received grants under sections 23-101, 32-6a, 32-9qq and 32-328; (5) to advise the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development on the distribution of grants for greenways transportation projects pursuant to sections 32-6a, 32-9qq and 32-328; and (6) to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Protection on the distribution of grants pursuant to section 23-101.

Sec. 14-21i. Greenways commemorative number plates. Fees. Regulations. (a) On and after January 1, 1998, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue greenways commemorative number plates of a design to enhance public awareness of the state and local efforts to preserve, restore and protect greenways. The design shall be determined by agreement between the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. No use shall be made of such plates except as official registration marker plates. (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish, by regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54, a fee to be charged for greenways commemorative number plates in addition to the regular fee or fees prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. The fee shall be for such number plates with letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher fee for:

- (1) Such number plates which contain letters in place of numbers as authorized by section 14-49, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued under said section; and
- (2) such number plates which are low number plates, in accordance with section 14-160, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued under said section. All fees established and collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the greenways account of the Conservation Fund, established pursuant to section 22a-27o. (c) No additional renewal fee shall be charged for renewal of registration for any motor vehicle bearing greenways commemorative number plates which contain letters in place of numbers, or low number plates, in excess of the renewal fee for greenways commemorative number plates with letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. No transfer fee shall be charged for transfer of an existing registration to or from a registration with greenways commemorative number plates. (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54, to establish standards and procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of greenways commemorative number plates.

Sec. 22a-27o. Greenways account. (a) There is established an account to be known as the "greenways account". The greenways account shall be an account of the Conservation Fund established under section 22a-27h. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund and credited to the greenways account. Any balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The account shall be available

(1) to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection for reimbursement of the Department of Motor Vehicles for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing and replacing greenways commemorative number plates, including administrative expenses, pursuant to section 14-21i and (2) to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection for grants pursuant to section 23-101. (b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may receive private donations to the greenways account and any such receipts shall be deposited in the account. (c) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may provide for the reproduction and marketing of the greenways commemorative number plate image for use on clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementoes, or other products or programs deemed by the commissioner to be suitable as a means of supporting the greenways account. Any funds received by the commissioner from such marketing shall be deposited in the greenways account.

We are grateful for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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