



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5214

LCO No. 5



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING BATTERSON PARK.

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-15h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) There is established an account to be known as the Passport to the
4 Parks account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the
5 General Fund. Moneys in such account shall be used to provide
6 expenses of the Council on Environmental Quality, beginning with the
7 fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and for the care, maintenance, operation
8 and improvement of state parks and campgrounds, the care,
9 maintenance and operation of Batterson Park, the funding of soil and
10 water conservation districts and the funding of environmental review
11 teams, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. All funds
12 collected from the Passport to the Parks Fee established pursuant to
13 section 14-49b, as amended by this act, shall be deposited into the
14 Passport to the Parks account. Such account shall contain all moneys
15 required by law to be deposited in such account. Such account may
16 receive funds from private or public sources, including, but not limited

17 to, any municipal government or the federal government. Such account
18 shall contain subaccounts as required by section 23-15b.

19 (b) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and each fiscal year
20 thereafter, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars shall be paid by the
21 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection from the Passport
22 to the Parks account to each of the following entities: (1) The Connecticut
23 River Coastal Conservation District, (2) the Eastern Conservation
24 District, (3) the North Central Conservation District, (4) the Northwest
25 Conservation District, (5) the Southwest Conservation District, (6) the
26 Connecticut Environmental Review Team, and (7) the Connecticut
27 Council on Water and Soil Conservation.

28 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Energy and
29 Environmental Protection, the city of Hartford and Riverfront
30 Recapture shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for the care,
31 maintenance and operation of Batterson Park by Riverfront Recapture.
32 Such agreement may include, but shall not be limited to: (1)
33 Authorization for Riverfront Recapture, through its agents and
34 employees, to enter upon, maintain and operate all areas of Batterson
35 Park, including, but not limited to, any areas not under the care, custody
36 and control of the city of Hartford, and (2) the provision of a grant-in-
37 aid from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to
38 Riverfront Recapture, each fiscal year, for the care, maintenance and
39 operation of Batterson Park through funding available to such state
40 agency in accordance with the provisions of section 23-15h of the
41 general statutes, as amended by this act.

42 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-49b of the general statutes is
43 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
44 *2024*):

45 (b) (1) For each new registration or renewal of registration of any
46 motor vehicle with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to this
47 chapter, the person registering such vehicle shall pay to the
48 commissioner a fee of fifteen dollars for registration for a triennial

49 period or ten dollars for registration for a biennial period for the
 50 following registration types: Passenger, motorcycle, motor home,
 51 combination or antique. Any person who is sixty-five years or older and
 52 who obtains a one-year registration renewal under section 14-49 for
 53 such registration type shall pay five dollars for the annual registration
 54 period. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any motor
 55 vehicle that is not self-propelled or that is exempted from payment of a
 56 registration fee. This fee shall be identified as the "Passport to the Parks
 57 Fee" on any registration form provided by the commissioner. Payments
 58 collected pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited
 59 in the Passport to the Parks account established pursuant to section 23-
 60 15h, as amended by this act. The fee required by this subsection is in
 61 addition to any other fees prescribed by any other provision of this title
 62 for the registration of a motor vehicle. No part of the "Passport to the
 63 Parks Fee" shall be subject to a refund under subsection (z) of section 14-
 64 49.

65 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
 66 subsection, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025, the Passport to
 67 the Parks Fee described in subdivision (1) of this subsection that is paid
 68 to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, for any such triennial,
 69 biennial or annual registration be increased by fifty cents. Every two
 70 years thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
 71 Protection, in coordination with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles,
 72 shall adjust the Passport to the Parks Fee to reflect changes in the
 73 consumer price index.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	23-15h
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	14-49b(b)

ENV *Joint Favorable*