



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6314**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTED HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING LICENSES FOR VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) to (f), inclusive, of this  
4 section, the fees for firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping and  
5 sport fishing licenses or for the combination thereof shall be as follows:  
6 (1) Resident firearms hunting license, nineteen dollars; (2) resident  
7 fishing license, twenty-eight dollars; (3) resident marine waters fishing  
8 license, ten dollars; (4) one-day resident marine waters fishing license,  
9 five dollars; (5) resident all-waters fishing license, thirty-two dollars;  
10 (6) resident combination license to fish in inland waters and firearms  
11 hunt, thirty-eight dollars; (7) resident combination license to fish in  
12 marine waters and firearms hunt, twenty-five dollars; (8) resident  
13 combination license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, forty  
14 dollars; (9) resident combination license to fish in all waters and bow  
15 and arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued pursuant to  
16 section 26-86c, as amended by this act, sixty-five dollars; (10) resident  
17 firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt,  
18 firearms private land shotgun or rifle deer permit issued pursuant to  
19 section 26-86a, as amended by this act, and permit to hunt wild turkey

20 during the spring season on private land issued pursuant to section 26-  
21 48a, seventy dollars; (11) resident archery super sport license to fish in  
22 all waters, bow and arrow permit to hunt deer and small game issued  
23 pursuant to section 26-86c, as amended by this act, and permit to hunt  
24 wild turkey during the spring season on private land issued pursuant  
25 to section 26-48a, eighty-two dollars; (12) resident firearms super sport  
26 license to fish in all waters and firearms hunt, firearms private land  
27 shotgun or rifle deer permit, muzzleloader private land deer permit,  
28 pursuant to section 26-86 and private land permit to hunt wild turkey  
29 during spring season pursuant to section 26-48a, eighty-four dollars;  
30 (13) resident firearms super sport license to fish in all waters and  
31 firearms hunt, migratory bird conservation stamp, and migratory bird  
32 harvest permit (HIP), fifty dollars; (14) resident trapping license, thirty-  
33 four dollars; (15) resident junior trapping license for persons under  
34 sixteen years of age, eleven dollars; (16) junior firearms hunting  
35 license, eleven dollars; (17) nonresident firearms hunting license,  
36 ninety-one dollars; (18) nonresident inland waters fishing license, fifty-  
37 five dollars; (19) nonresident inland waters fishing license for a period  
38 of three consecutive days, twenty-two dollars; (20) nonresident marine  
39 waters fishing license, fifteen dollars; (21) nonresident marine waters  
40 fishing license for a period of three consecutive days, eight dollars; (22)  
41 nonresident all-waters fishing license, sixty-three dollars; (23)  
42 nonresident combination license to firearms hunt and inland waters  
43 fish, one hundred ten dollars; (24) nonresident combination license to  
44 fish in all waters and firearms hunt, one hundred twenty dollars; (25)  
45 nonresident combination license to fish in marine waters and firearms  
46 hunt, ninety-four dollars; and (26) nonresident trapping license, two  
47 hundred fifty dollars. Persons sixty-five years of age and over who  
48 have been residents of this state for not less than one year and who  
49 meet the requirements of subsection (b) of section 26-31 may be issued  
50 an annual license to firearms hunt or to fish or combination license to  
51 fish and firearms hunt or a license to trap without fee. The issuing  
52 agency shall indicate on a combination license the specific purpose for  
53 which such license is issued. The town clerk shall retain a recording fee  
54 of one dollar for each license issued by such clerk.

55 (b) Any nonresident residing in one of the New England states or  
56 the state of New York may procure a license to hunt or to fish or to  
57 hunt and fish for the same fee or fees as a resident of this state if such  
58 nonresident is a resident of a state the laws of which allow the same  
59 privilege to residents of this state.

60 (c) The fee for a group fishing license, as described in subsection (h)  
61 of section 26-30, shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars.

62 (d) (1) (A) The fee charged for any firearms hunting, archery  
63 hunting, trapping or sport fishing license that is issued to any  
64 Connecticut resident who is sixteen or seventeen years of age shall be  
65 equal to fifty per cent of the fee provided for such license in subsection  
66 (a) of this section, rounded to the next highest dollar.

67 (B) The fee charged for any firearms hunting, archery hunting,  
68 trapping or sport fishing license that is issued to any veteran or any  
69 active duty member of the armed forces shall be equal to fifty per cent  
70 of the fee provided for such license in subsection (a) of this section that  
71 is applicable to a Connecticut resident, rounded to the next highest  
72 dollar.

73 (2) (A) The fee charged pursuant to section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a, as  
74 amended by this act, or 26-86c, as amended by this act, for any  
75 firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport fishing permit,  
76 tag or stamp that is issued to any Connecticut resident who is less than  
77 eighteen years of age shall be equal to fifty per cent of the fee provided  
78 for such permit, tag or stamp in said sections, rounded to the next  
79 highest dollar.

80 (B) The fee charged pursuant to section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a, as  
81 amended by this act, or 26-86c, as amended by this act, for any  
82 firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport fishing permit,  
83 tag or stamp that is issued to any veteran or any active duty member  
84 of the armed forces shall be equal to fifty per cent of the fee provided  
85 for such permit, tag or stamp in said sections that is applicable to a

86 Connecticut resident, rounded to the next highest dollar.

87 (3) As used in this subsection, "veteran" and "armed forces" have the  
88 same meanings as provided in section 27-103.

89 (e) In addition to the calendar day designated pursuant to  
90 subsection (f) of section 26-27, the Commissioner of Energy and  
91 Environmental Protection may designate two additional days in each  
92 calendar year on which a one-day license for sport fishing may be  
93 issued free of charge. The commissioner may make such one-day  
94 license available to all members of the public or to all members of an  
95 age group designated by said commissioner.

96 (f) From time to time and for the purpose of increasing  
97 participation, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
98 Protection with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
99 and Management, may reduce, but not completely waive, the fee or  
100 cost for any license, permit, tag or stamp, or combination thereof, as  
101 provided for in this section or section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a, as  
102 amended by this act, or 26-86c, as amended by this act. Any such  
103 reduction shall: (1) Be for a portion of a calendar year, (2) remain in  
104 effect only during the calendar year in which such reduction is made,  
105 and (3) be made only if such reduction is provided to all members of  
106 the public, to all members of a certain age group, or to individuals  
107 who, in such calendar year, successfully complete a course of  
108 instruction in fishing techniques, as provided for in section 26-31a or a  
109 conservation education course of instruction, as provided for in  
110 subsection (a) of section 26-31.

111 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 26-86a of the general statutes is  
112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
113 *1, 2023*):

114 (a) The commissioner shall establish by regulation adopted in  
115 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 standards for deer  
116 management, and methods, regulated areas, bag limits, seasons and

117 permit eligibility for hunting deer with bow and arrow, muzzleloader  
118 and shotgun, except that no such hunting shall be permitted on  
119 Sunday by any means other than with bow and arrow on private  
120 property pursuant to section 26-73. No person shall hunt, pursue,  
121 wound or kill deer with a firearm without first obtaining a deer permit  
122 from the commissioner in addition to the license required by section  
123 26-27. Application for such permit shall be made on forms furnished  
124 by the commissioner and containing such information as he may  
125 require. Such permit shall be of a design prescribed by the  
126 commissioner, shall contain such information and conditions as the  
127 commissioner may require, and may be revoked for violation of any  
128 provision of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant thereto. As  
129 used in this section, "muzzleloader" means a rifle or shotgun of at least  
130 forty-five caliber, incapable of firing a self-contained cartridge, which  
131 uses powder, a projectile, including, but not limited to, a standard  
132 round ball, mini-balls, maxi-balls and Sabot bullets, and wadding  
133 loaded separately at the muzzle end, and "rifle" means a long gun the  
134 projectile of which is six millimeters or larger in diameter. The fee for a  
135 firearms permit shall be nineteen dollars for residents of the state and  
136 sixty-eight dollars for nonresidents. [ , except that any nonresident who  
137 is an active full-time member of the armed forces, as defined in section  
138 27-103, may purchase a firearms permit for the same fee as is charged a  
139 resident of the state.] The commissioner shall issue, without fee, a  
140 private land deer permit to the owner of ten or more acres of private  
141 land and the husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling and any  
142 lineal descendant of such owner, provided no such owner, husband or  
143 wife, parent, grandparent, sibling or lineal descendant shall be issued  
144 more than one such permit per season. Such permit shall allow the use  
145 of a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader or bow and arrow on such land from  
146 November first to December thirty-first, inclusive. Deer may be so  
147 hunted at such times and in such areas of such state-owned land as are  
148 designated by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
149 Protection and on privately owned land with the signed consent of the  
150 landowner, on forms furnished by the department, and such signed  
151 consent shall be carried by any person when so hunting on private

152 land. The owner of ten acres or more of private land may allow the use  
153 of a rifle to hunt deer on such land during the shotgun season. The  
154 commissioner shall determine, by regulation, the number of consent  
155 forms issued for any regulated area established by said commissioner.  
156 The commissioner shall provide for a fair and equitable random  
157 method for the selection of successful applicants who may obtain  
158 shotgun and muzzleloader permits for hunting deer on state lands.  
159 Any person whose name appears on more than one application for a  
160 shotgun permit or more than one application for a muzzleloader  
161 permit shall be disqualified from the selection process for such permit.  
162 No person shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer with a bow and  
163 arrow without first obtaining a bow and arrow permit pursuant to  
164 section 26-86c, as amended by this act. "Bow and arrow", as used in  
165 this section and in section 26-86c, as amended by this act, means a bow  
166 with a draw weight of not less than forty pounds. The arrowhead shall  
167 have two or more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an  
168 inch at the widest point. No person shall carry firearms of any kind  
169 while hunting with a bow and arrow under this section and section 26-  
170 86c, as amended by this act.

171 Sec. 3. Section 26-86c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
172 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

173 No person may hunt deer or small game with a bow and arrow  
174 under the provisions of this chapter without a valid permit issued by  
175 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection pursuant  
176 to this section or section 26-86a, as amended by this act, for persons  
177 hunting deer with bow and arrow under private land deer permits  
178 issued free to qualifying landowners, or their husbands or wives,  
179 parents, grandparents, lineal descendants or siblings under that  
180 section. The fee for such bow and arrow permit to hunt deer and small  
181 game shall be forty-one dollars for residents and one hundred thirty-  
182 five dollars for nonresidents, or nineteen dollars for any person twelve  
183 years of age or older but under sixteen years of age, [, except that any  
184 nonresident who is an active full-time member of the armed forces, as

185 defined in section 27-103, may purchase a bow and arrow permit to  
 186 hunt deer and small game for the same fee as is charged a resident of  
 187 the state.] Permits to hunt with a bow and arrow under the provisions  
 188 of this chapter shall be issued only to qualified applicants therefor by  
 189 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in such  
 190 form as said commissioner prescribes. Applications shall be made on  
 191 forms furnished by the commissioner containing such information as  
 192 he may require and all such application forms shall have printed  
 193 thereon: "I declare under the penalties of false statement that the  
 194 statements herein made by me are true and correct." Any person who  
 195 makes any material false statement on such application form shall be  
 196 guilty of false statement and shall be subject to the penalties provided  
 197 for false statement and said offense shall be deemed to have been  
 198 committed in the town in which the applicant resides. No such  
 199 application shall contain any material false statement. On and after  
 200 January 1, 2002, permits to hunt with a bow and arrow under the  
 201 provisions of this chapter shall be issued only to qualified applicants  
 202 who have successfully completed the conservation education bow  
 203 hunting course as specified in section 26-31 or an equivalent course in  
 204 another state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	26-28
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	26-86a(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	26-86c

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Sections 2 and 3 were added to conform to the change being made in Section 1.

**VA**            *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*