



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 458**

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 319

*Senate, April 7, 2026*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2027*) The Department of Energy  
2 and Environmental Protection shall reactivate the 2010 Lawn  
3 Equipment Exchange Fund for municipalities and regional school  
4 districts.

5 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Not later than January 31,  
6 2028, the Connecticut Green Bank shall create a loan program or loan  
7 products that are tailored to assist Connecticut registered commercial  
8 landscapers with the purchase or lease of battery-operated lawn  
9 equipment. The Connecticut Green Bank shall use existing statutory  
10 authority and access to capital, as well as lending partnerships to create  
11 such loans or loan products.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2027	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1, "regional schools" was changed to "regional school districts", for accuracy.

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do 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.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Green Bank	Clean Energy Fund	None	Indeterminate

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

**Section 1** of the bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), by October 1, 2027, to reactivate the 2010 Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund. This does not result in a cost to DEEP as there is a zero balance within this account.

**Section 2** requires the Connecticut Green Bank, by January 31, 2028, to create a loan program or loan products to assist Connecticut registered commercial landscapers with the purchase or lease of battery-operated lawn equipment. This is anticipated to result in a cost to the Connecticut Green Bank, which is a quasi-public green bank. The level of funding associated with the new loan program or products is indeterminate and not specified in the bill.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 319*****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 loan products to help registered commercial landscapers buy or lease battery-operated lawn equipment. The Green Bank must 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. It is unclear if the bill's intent is to establish a similar reimbursement program (the 2010 program was not established in law) or to establish a new similar fund, as the original fund no longer exists.)

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)