



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5153

LCO No. 1040



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

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

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 7-131d of the 2026 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (c) Grants may be made under the protected open space and
5 watershed land acquisition grant program established under subsection
6 (a) of this section for restoration or protection of natural features or
7 habitats of, or for repurposing for urban agricultural use on, open space
8 already owned by a (1) distressed municipality, as defined in section 32-
9 9p, (2) targeted investment community, as defined in section 32-222, (3)
10 municipality, provided such open space is located in an environmental
11 justice community, as defined in section 22a-20a, or is immediately
12 adjacent to a United States census block group described in subdivision
13 (1) of subsection (a) of section 22a-20a, or (4) nonprofit land conservation
14 organization, provided such open space is located in a distressed

15 municipality, targeted investment community or environmental justice
16 community or is immediately adjacent to a United States census block
17 group described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 22a-20a.
18 Such restoration or protection may include, but need not be limited to,
19 (A) wetland, wildlife or plant habitat restoration or restoration of other
20 sites to a more natural condition, (B) urban agricultural use, or (C)
21 replacement of vegetation. The total amount of grants made pursuant to
22 this subsection shall not exceed twenty per cent of the total amount of
23 grants made pursuant to the open space and watershed land acquisition
24 grant program in any fiscal year.

25 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 7-131g of the general statutes is
26 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
27 *passage*):

28 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of [subdivision (3) of subsection
29 (c) of] subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 7-
30 131d, any land that is the subject of the execution or recording of a
31 conservation easement or restriction [that resulted from a federally
32 funded land conservation program, municipal conservation grant
33 program or a private conservation grant program,] prior to the
34 recording of a permanent conservation easement described in
35 subsection [(e)] (f) of section 7-131d [,] shall not be construed to
36 constitute land that has already been committed for public use,
37 provided:

38 (1) Such prior conservation easement or restriction is executed [after
39 the execution of the grant agreement for a grant to preserve such land
40 under the provisions of this section] or reserved not more than six
41 months prior to the application deadline for the grant round under
42 which the acquisition of the state's interest in such land will be funded,
43 (2) at the time of the recording of the permanent conservation easement
44 required pursuant to subsection [(e)] (f) of section 7-131d, any
45 nonfederal holder of any such prior easement subordinates such
46 holder's interests in the land to the interests of the state in form and

47 substance satisfactory to the Commissioner of Energy and
48 Environmental Protection, and (3) [such other federal funds, municipal
49 grant funds or private grant funds are used as matching funds for a
50 grant issued under this section, and (4)] the Commissioner of Energy
51 and Environmental Protection determines, based on all pertinent
52 circumstances, that the conveyance of such other conservation easement
53 or restriction, in combination with the acquisition of the state's interest
54 under this section, constitutes one concurrent acquisition of property or
55 interests therein.

56 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 22a-202 of the 2026 supplement to the
57 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
58 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

59 (d) On and after July 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Energy and
60 Environmental Protection shall establish and administer a program to
61 provide rebates or vouchers to residents, municipalities, businesses,
62 nonprofit organizations and tribal entities located in this state when
63 such residents, municipalities, businesses, organizations or tribal
64 entities purchase or lease a new or used battery electric vehicle, plug-in
65 hybrid electric vehicle or fuel cell electric vehicle. The commissioner, in
66 consultation with the advisory board, shall establish and revise, as
67 necessary, appropriate rebate levels, voucher amounts and maximum
68 income eligibility for [such] prioritized rebates or vouchers. The
69 commissioner shall prioritize the granting of rebates or vouchers to (1)
70 residents [of environmental justice communities, residents] having
71 household incomes at or below three hundred per cent of the federal
72 poverty level, and (2) residents who participate in state and federal
73 assistance programs, including, but not limited to, the state-
74 administered federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
75 state-administered federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance
76 Program, a Head Start program established pursuant to section 10-16n
77 or assistance provided by Operation Fuel, Incorporated. Any such
78 rebate or voucher awarded to [a] an income qualified resident [of an
79 environmental justice community] shall be in an amount not less than

80 two hundred per cent [more than] of the standard rebate level or
81 voucher amount. The commissioner, in consultation with the advisory
82 board, may additionally prioritize the granting of rebates or vouchers to
83 non-income qualified residents of environmental justice communities
84 over other non-income qualified residents. An eligible municipality,
85 business, nonprofit organization or tribal entity may receive not more
86 than ten rebates or vouchers a year, within available funds, and not
87 more than a total of twenty rebates or vouchers, except the
88 commissioner may issue additional rebates or vouchers to an eligible
89 business or nonprofit organization that operates a fleet of motor vehicles
90 exclusively in an environmental justice community. On and after July 1,
91 2022, and until June 30, 2027, inclusive, a battery electric vehicle, plug-
92 in hybrid electric vehicle or fuel cell electric vehicle that is eligible for a
93 rebate or voucher under the program shall have a base manufacturer's
94 suggested retail price of not more than fifty thousand dollars.

95 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 22a-201d of the general statutes is
96 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
97 *passage*):

98 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
99 establish and administer a grant program for the purpose of providing
100 [matching] a portion of the funds necessary for municipalities, school
101 districts and school bus operators [to submit federal grant applications
102 in order] to maximize federal or other funding or financing for the
103 purchase or lease of zero-emission school buses and electric vehicle
104 charging or fueling infrastructure. Applications for such grants shall be
105 filed with the commissioner at such time and in such manner as the
106 commissioner prescribes. The commissioner shall give preference to
107 applications concerning the purchase or lease of a zero-emission school
108 bus that will be operated primarily in an environmental justice
109 community. The commissioner shall determine the amount a
110 municipality, school district or school bus operator shall be required to
111 provide to match such grant.

112 Sec. 5. Subdivision (4) of section 25-231 of the general statutes is
113 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
114 *passage*):

115 (4) "Major state plan" means any of the following: The plan for
116 development of outdoor recreation adopted pursuant to section 22a-21,
117 the state-wide solid waste management plan adopted pursuant to
118 section 22a-228, the state-wide plan for the management of water
119 resources adopted pursuant to section 22a-352, the state-wide
120 environmental plan adopted pursuant to section 22a-8, the historic
121 preservation plan adopted under the National Historic Preservation
122 Act, 16 USC 470 et seq., the state-wide facility and capital plan adopted
123 pursuant to section 4b-23, the state's consolidated plan for housing and
124 community development prepared pursuant to section 8-37t, the water
125 quality management plan adopted under the federal Clean Water Act,
126 33 USC 1251 et seq., and any plans for managing forest resources
127 adopted pursuant to section 23-20; [and the Connecticut River Atlantic
128 Salmon Compact adopted pursuant to section 26-302;]

129 Sec. 6. Section 26-302 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from*
130 *passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	7-131d(c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	7-131g(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22a-202(d)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22a-201d(d)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	25-231(4)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To make minor revisions to various statutes under the authority of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]