
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5154

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN REVISIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S PERMITTING AUTHORITY.

SUMMARY

This bill expands the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) authority to issue general permits. To issue a general permit instead of an individual permit under the bill, DEEP must (1) determine that the activity both separately and cumulatively causes minimal environmental effects, and (2) specify the determination in the general permit's public notice. The general permitting does not apply to (1) solid waste activity already covered by an individual permit, (2) resources recovery facilities, (3) biomedical waste facilities, (4) solid waste disposal areas, or (5) municipal solid waste composting facilities. By law, these permits issued for solid waste activities must be consistent with the requirements of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

The bill also automatically renews sufficient applications for individual permits to operate solid waste facilities if, after conducting a technical review and determining that the application is sufficient, the commissioner does not sign a notice of tentative determination to approve or deny the application within 90 days. Applications to renew an individual solid waste permit must be on a form set by the commissioner and include the applicable fee. The fees for renewing a permit to operate a solid waste facility are (1) \$750 for resource recovery facilities, (2) \$350 for transfer stations, (3) \$175 for source-separated organic material composting facilities, (4) \$350 for any other volume reduction plant, and (5) \$350 for biomedical waste treatment facilities (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 22a-208a-1).

The bill specifies that it does not limit the commissioner's authority

to review (1) all aspects of the permittee’s existing operations and (2) the renewal application (for example, requiring certain applicants to submit to certain background checks). By law, a permit is generally required for a person or municipality to establish, build, or operate a solid waste facility.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

General and Individual Permits

Existing law authorizes DEEP to issue individual and general permits for certain activities. Individual permits are issued directly to the applicant, while general permits are generally issued to authorize similar minor activities by one or more applicants.

RCRA

The RCRA authorizes the federal Environmental Protection Agency to control hazardous waste, including the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. The RCRA also sets a framework for managing non-hazardous waste.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 6 (03/18/2026)