

Sec. 22a-21. (Formerly Sec. 22-7a). Plan for development of outdoor recreation and other natural resources. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection is authorized to prepare, maintain and keep up-to-date a comprehensive plan for the development of the outdoor recreation resources and other natural resources of the state and to cooperate and enter into agreements with the federal government, and other state agencies, municipalities of the state and regional authorities relating thereto. The plan shall coordinate the activities and represent the interests of the component agencies of the Department of Environmental Protection and may coordinate its activities with and represent the interests of all agencies of the state, and of municipal and other governmental units and nongovernmental persons and organizations having interests in the planning, development and maintenance of outdoor recreation and natural resources and facilities within or adjacent to the state. The plan shall be presented to the Governor and to the General Assembly in November of the even-numbered years. In order to achieve coordination of activities and objectives, the plan shall so far as possible be prepared, maintained and updated in cooperation and in conjunction with planning activities of all other appropriate agencies of the state, municipal and other governmental units and nongovernmental persons and organizations.

(February, 1965, P.A. 329, S. 1; 1967, P.A. 634, S. 1; 1969, P.A. 628, S. 15; 1971, P.A. 872, S. 394.)

History: 1967 act authorized commissioner of agriculture and natural resources to enter in agreements with municipalities and regional authorities, changed date for initial submission of plan from 1966 to 1968 and required biennial rather than annual submissions thereafter; 1969 act changed date for initial submission of plan to 1970 and deleted provision allowing commissioner's continued participation in Connecticut interregional planning program; 1971 act replaced commissioner and department of agriculture and natural resources with commissioner and department of environmental protection and specified that plan be submitted in even-numbered years; Sec. 22-7a transferred to Sec. 22a-21 in 1972.

Sec. 22a-21a. State assistance related to recreation and park services. The Department of Environmental Protection shall: (1) Study the recreation needs of the state and disseminate information concerning recreation services; (2) assist municipalities and other political subdivisions of the state in establishing and financing recreation and parks programs; (3) accept grants from the public and private sectors for the purpose of providing and improving recreation and park services and (4) cooperate with state, local and federal agencies, private groups, individuals and commercial recreation enterprises in providing and improving recreation and park services.

(P.A. 78-359, S. 6, 8.)

Sec. 22a-21b. Connecticut Conservation Corps. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may, within available appropriations, establish and operate a Connecticut Conservation Corps program, similar to the federal Young Adult Conservation Corps program (29 USC 991 et seq.), for the employment of young adults at facilities maintained and operated by the Division of Conservation and Preservation of the Department of Environmental Protection.

(P.A. 82-91, S. 26, 38; P.A. 91-369, S. 2, 36.)

History: P.A. 91-369 made establishment of the program discretionary within available appropriations, rather than mandatory as was previously the case.

Sec. 22a-21c. Connecticut Service Corps: Definitions. For the purposes of sections 22a-21d to 22a-21h, inclusive:

- (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental Protection;
- (2) "Corps" means the Connecticut Service Corps;
- (3) "Corps member" means a person between sixteen and twenty-five years of age who is employed in the Service Corps;
- (4) "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection;
- (5) "Indirect expenses" means those incidental expenses incurred by a grantee as a result of a Service Corps project which are not specifically identifiable or traceable to the project and are not easily substantiated;
- (6) "In-kind services" means work done by regular employees of a grantee that is necessary to support the Service Corps project and for which the cost can be specifically identified and substantiated;
- (7) "Project" means a complete operating organization either proposed for the Service Corps in a grant application or for which a grant award has been made; and
- (8) "Sponsor" or "project sponsor" means an organization meeting the criteria in subsection (c) of section 22a-21d.

(P.A. 86-336, S. 8, 19.)

Sec. 22a-21d. Connecticut Service Corps established. Project sponsors. Grants. (a) There is established a Connecticut Service Corps to be administered by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, within available appropriations. The corps shall provide persons between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five the opportunity, throughout the year, for meaningful and necessary work in temporary service to the state, its communities and its citizens.

(b) Subject to the provisions of section 7-396a, any state agency, municipality or legally designated nonprofit or not-for-profit organization incorporated in this state may sponsor a Service Corps project and apply to the commissioner for a grant for said project.

(c) Grants made available to Service Corps project sponsors shall be made, within available appropriations, in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) For the first grant year: One dollar may be awarded for each dollar of state agency or municipal government funds committed to and expended for a project and one dollar and fifty cents may be awarded for each dollar of private funds committed to and expended for the project. Not more than one dollar may be awarded to match the value of in-kind services committed to and expended on a project. No grant shall be awarded to match any indirect expenses that may be incurred by a project sponsor.

(2) Provided a project sponsor has fulfilled the terms and requirements of the grant agreement in the preceding year and provided the amount of funds other than grant funds committed to and expended for the project shall be not less than the funds committed in the first year of the

project, a project sponsor may apply for and receive, within available appropriations, diminishing annual grants as follows: In the second year of the project, seventy-five per cent of the amount awarded for the first year; in the third year of the project, fifty per cent of the amount awarded for the first year; in the fourth year of the project, twenty-five per cent of the amount awarded in the first year. No grant shall be awarded after the fourth year of the project. Grants for the continuation of existing projects shall take precedence over awards for new projects.

(d) A Service Corps project sponsor may apply for and be awarded, within available appropriations, grants for more than one project provided the personnel, financial and performance records for each project are maintained as separate and distinct from the records of all other projects and the accounting records of the sponsor substantiate the separation. No grant or matching funds from one project may be used to match grant funds for any other project.

(P.A. 86-336, S. 9-12, 19; P.A. 91-369, S. 3, 36.)

History: P.A. 91-369 amended Subsec. (a) to make establishment of the program discretionary within available appropriations.

Sec. 22a-21e. Grant application. An application for a grant shall be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) A summary that has: (A) The name, address, telephone number, tax status, federal employer identification number and state tax number of the applicant; (B) the name, title, address and telephone number, of the applicant's designated contact person; (C) a description of the principal business of the applicant and the period of time in business in this state, if such period is less than five years; (D) the number of employees and gross income of the applicant for the preceding year; and (E) a summary description of the project that includes the location and a description of the need for the project and of its benefits to the community, an indication of the period for which funds will be requested, an estimate of the total cost of the project over the anticipated grant period and the exact amount of grant funds being applied for in the first year of the project, the number of corps members to be employed at any one time and during the entire grant period, planned tenure for corps members in the project, general eligibility requirements for corps members, a brief description of potential benefits to corps members from the experience and an indication of the potential for continuation of the project after the grant period.

(2) A detailed budget for the first year of the project that shows: (A) The total cost of the first year of the project, the amount of grant funds being requested, certification that matching funds will be available and the amount by source of such matching funds; (B) the number of corps members to be employed in the first year of the project, an itemization of corps member fringe benefits to be paid for from project funds and the costs therefor, and an estimated turnover rate for corps members and the anticipated first year cost of their salaries with fringe benefits added and turnover deducted; (C) the number of direct supervisors of corps members to be employed by the project, an itemization of fringe benefits to be paid to such supervisors from project funds and the costs therefor, an estimated turnover rate and the anticipated first year cost of salaries for such supervisors with fringe benefits added and turnover deducted; (D) the number of administrative and support personnel to be employed on or paid from project funds and the total anticipated cost of salaries for such personnel during the first year including any costs for fringe benefits and deductions for turnover; (E) a schedule of capital equipment, if any, to be purchased with project funds in the first year of the project, a statement of need for each item

and the cost thereof; (F) a schedule of rentals, if any, to be paid for from first year project funds and for each rental, the name and address of the probable renter, the nature, need, rental period and cost thereof; (G) a schedule of planned costs for work materials, tools and supplies to be purchased in the first year of the project; (H) a schedule of anticipated routine operating costs for the first year of the project; (I) a schedule of anticipated costs for materials and supplies to be purchased in the first year of the project for support functions; (J) a schedule of travel costs planned for the first year of the project, if any, and a description of the nature and purpose of such travel; (K) a table of organization for the project showing the project's relationship to the sponsor's organization and all staff and corps member positions that will be employed on or receive any compensation from project funds; and (L) any other information the commissioner may require.

(P.A. 86-336, S. 13, 19.)

Sec. 22a-21f. Rating system for grant applications. For the purpose of making grants, the commissioner shall develop a rating system for applications that will assess the relative merits of proposed projects with emphasis on:

(1) The contribution of the project to the community in resolving outstanding community problems;

(2) The contribution of the project in resolving the special needs of the intended service population;

(3) The contribution of the project in addressing state and national issues;

(4) The evidence of community support for and involvement in the project;

(5) The appropriateness of the project and its probable effectiveness in meeting the stated need;

(6) The planned economic efficiency of the project;

(7) The probable benefits to corps members in self-confidence and self-pride, encouraging the work ethic through job satisfaction, fostering good work habits, strengthening a sense of community and promoting good community citizenship, facilitating continued or supplementary education;

(8) The quality and comprehensiveness of the project and project planning effort as exhibited by the grant application; and

(9) The potential of the project to continue beyond the grant period without government subsidy.

(P.A. 86-336, S. 14, 19.)

Sec. 22a-21g. Project eligibility; exceptions. The commissioner may determine the eligibility of a project except that:

(1) No grant shall be awarded to any organization for a project that is solely an extension, expansion or continuation of the routine work normally done by such organization;

(2) No grant shall be awarded for any project that would result in the layoff of any employed person or in delaying or preventing the rehiring of any person that has been laid off;

(3) No grant shall be awarded for any project that would delay or preclude the hiring of regular, full-time or regular part-time employees normally hired, or who could reasonably be expected to be hired, to do the required routine work of any organization or business affected by the project;

(4) No grant shall be awarded solely for the purpose of supplementing the regular work force of any organization or business to compensate for peak seasonal workloads; and

(5) No grant shall be awarded for any project that would supplant work normally done by organized labor through direct employment in an organization affected by the project or through employment in a business that would normally be contracted to do the work or provide the service offered by the project.

(P.A. 86-336, S. 15, 19.)

Sec. 22a-21h. Annual reports by project sponsor and commissioner. On or before October first of each year, a project sponsor shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection on the unique or outstanding achievements of the project, the progress and problems in reaching the project's goals and objectives and the value of the project's accomplishments. The report shall have an accounting for project funds and such other information as the commissioner may require. On or before January first of each year, the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the achievements of the corps, its status and potential for the future.

(P.A. 86-336, S. 16, 19.)

Sec. 22a-21i. Grants for operating costs of Beardsley Zoological Gardens, Bridgeport. The Department of Environmental Protection may provide grants, within available appropriations, to the city of Bridgeport or to the Connecticut Zoological Society for the purpose of paying the operating costs for property located in the town and city of Bridgeport and known as the Beardsley Zoological Gardens. As used in this section, "operating costs" means expenses incurred in the operation of the Beardsley Zoological Gardens, including, but not limited to, insurance premiums, salaries, property maintenance, utilities and supplies.

(P.A. 95-222, S. 1, 2.)

History: P.A. 95-222 effective July 6, 1995.

Sec. 22a-21j. School bus emissions reduction program. (a) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall establish a school bus emissions reduction program. Such program shall be established regardless of the price levels established by the procurement contracts developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 14-164o. Through the program, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall:

(1) Within available appropriations, make grants with funds from the school bus emissions reduction account, established pursuant to section 22a-21k, to municipalities and local and regional school boards to reimburse them for the cost of retrofitting full-sized school buses that

are projected to be in service on or after September 1, 2010. For such grants the commissioner may use applicable existing contracts or provide a supplemental bid process;

(2) Develop an outreach plan and materials for educating and notifying municipalities, local and regional boards of education and bus companies about the requirements of section 14-164o; and

(3) Assist municipalities and local and regional boards of education and bus companies to retrofit their full-sized school buses. Such assistance shall include, but not be limited to, guidance in choosing whether to retrofit buses with either a level 1 device, level 2 device or level 3 device.

(b) To receive a reimbursement pursuant to this section, a municipality or local or regional board of education shall submit a form prescribed by the commissioner to the Department of Environmental Protection, which shall contain: (1) The school bus model and year, engine model and year, vehicle identification number and date of installation for each eligible retrofitted bus, (2) for an eligible bus retrofitted with a level 3 device, a certification that the bus will operate in the state for not less than three years after the date of installation of the emission control device, and (3) a receipt for the purchase of the emission control devices and their installation.

(June Sp. Sess. P.A. 07-4, S. 19; P.A. 09-1, S. 34.)

History: June Sp. Sess. P.A. 07-4 effective July 1, 2007; P.A. 09-1 amended Subsec. (a)(1) to replace former requirements re grants with provision permitting commissioner to use existing contracts or a supplemental bid process for grants, effective July 1, 2009.

See Secs. 14-164n, 14-164o re emissions control devices in school buses.

Sec. 22a-21k. School bus emissions reduction account. There is established the "school bus emissions reduction account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The moneys in said account shall be expended by the Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes of the school bus emissions reduction program established in section 22a-21j. The Department of Environmental Protection shall not use more than three per cent of the funds in said account for the administration of said program.

(June Sp. Sess. P.A. 07-4, S. 18.)

History: June Sp. Sess. P.A. 07-4 effective July 1, 2007.