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State Parks - Parking Fees

Introductory Phrase

Section 23-26-5 through 23-26-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended as follows:

Section

23-26-5

Day use parking fees

(a) [No person shall enter Pattaconk Lake Recreation Area in a motor vehicle, other than a bus, before 4:00 p.m. on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday without paying the following parking fee:

- (1) Vehicle with Connecticut license plates - \$7.00
- (2) Vehicle with out of state license plates - \$10.00

(b) No person shall enter Gardner Lake State Park in a motor vehicle other than a bus, without paying the following parking fee:

- (1) Before 4 p.m. on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday:
 - (A) Vehicle with Connecticut license plates - \$7.00
 - (B) Vehicle with out of state license plates - \$10.00

- (2) Before 4 p.m. Monday through Friday:
 - (A) Vehicle with Connecticut license plates – \$5.00
 - (B) Vehicle with out of state license plates – \$7.00]

(a) With the exception of boat launches, at any state park or other recreational facility at which a parking fee is in effect on the effective date of this section, a person entering in a motor vehicle, other than a bus, shall pay the following fees:

- (1) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$5, the new fee shall be \$6;
- (2) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$6, the new fee shall be \$[5]7;
- (3) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$7, [it shall remain at] the new fee shall be \$[7]8;
- (4) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$9, the new fee shall be \$10;
- (5) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$10, [it shall remain at] the new fee shall be \$[10] 11;
- (6) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$[14]13, the new fee shall be \$[15]14.
- (7) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$15, the new fee shall be \$16;
- (8) If the daily parking fee in effect is \$22, the new fee shall be \$24;

(b) With the exception of boat launches, at any state park or other recreational facility at which a parking fee is in effect on the effective date of this section, a person entering in a motor vehicle, other than a bus, after 4:00 p.m. but before 6:30 p.m. shall pay the following fee, to be called the "late day parking fee":

(1) The late day fee shall be \$[5]7.00 at all salt water beach facilities, Harkness Memorial State Park and Squantz Pond State Park for a vehicle with Connecticut license plates, and \$8.00 for a vehicle with out of state license plates;

(2) The late day fee shall be \$[4]6.00 at all other inland parks for a vehicle with Connecticut license plates, and \$7.00 for a vehicle with out of state license plates.

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(c) At any existing state park facility where fees are not currently charged or at any new state park facility, the Commissioner may charge parking fees consistent with charges authorized pursuant to this section.

(d) All day use parking fees shall be inclusive of applicable state sales tax.

Section

23-26-6

Parking fees for buses

(a) A bus shall not enter any state park or other recreational facility without presenting a bus permit obtained from the State Parks Division and paying the following parking fee:

(1) For a trip originating in Connecticut: \$~~75~~108.00 per bus

(2) For a trip originating out-of-state: \$~~100~~160.00 per bus

(b) A mini-bus does not need to obtain a bus permit from the State Parks Division but shall not enter any state park or other recreation facility without paying the following parking fee at the ticket booth:

(1) Mini-bus with Connecticut license plates: \$~~25~~36.00

(2) Mini-bus with out-of-state license plates: \$~~40~~64.00

(c) All parking fees for buses shall be inclusive of applicable state sales tax.

Section

23-26-7

Calendar year pass

(a) A Connecticut resident may purchase a calendar year pass that will cover the required parking fee at any state park, boat launch, or other recreational facility if the person affixes said pass on the windshield of the person's passenger vehicle. On the effective date of this regulation that fee will [increase from \$40 to \$50] be 72.00 for the calendar year.

(b) On the effective date of this regulation, the Commissioner may offer, and an out-of-state resident may purchase, a non-resident calendar year pass for a fee of \$~~75~~120.00, that will cover the required parking fee at any state park, boat launch, or other recreational facility if the person affixes said pass on the windshield of the person's passenger vehicle.

(c) All calendar year pass fees shall be inclusive of applicable state sales tax.

Statement of Purpose

These proposed regulations would increase the parking fees at state parks to include an amount to include the recently enacted sales tax on parking fees. The amount of the new proposed fee “rounds” the fee up to the nearest dollar to simplify the transactions at the ticket booths. These regulations also update the regulations to reflect prior statutory increases to parking fees charged in state parks that are already in place.