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States' Recreational Use Statutes:

Connecticut

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A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication
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Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22a-133ff ; § 52-557f–k
The statutes and Constitution are current with all enactments of the 2022 Regular Session enrolled and approved by the Governor on or before July 1, 2022 and effective on or before July 1, 2022.

§ 22a-133ff. Municipal liability for easement acquired for recreational use.

(a) For purposes of this section, "charge" has the same meaning as provided in section 52-557f, except that "charge" does not include tax revenue collected pursuant to title 12 by any owner, as defined in said section 52-557f, "hazardous waste" has the same meaning as provided in section 22a-115, and "pollution" has the same meaning as provided in section 22a-423.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or regulations to the contrary, any municipality with a population greater than ninety thousand people that acquires an easement over property of another that is duly recorded on the land records for the purpose of making the property included in such easement available to the public for recreational use without charge, rent, fee or other commercial service shall not be liable to the state for any fines, penalties or costs of investigation or remediation with respect to any pollution or source of pollution or contamination by hazardous waste on or emanating from such easement area, provided such pollution or source of pollution or contamination by hazardous waste (1) occurred or existed on such property prior to the municipality's acquisition of such easement, and (2) was not caused or created by or contributed to by such municipality or by an agent of such municipality and provided such municipality, or the use of such easement area by the public, does not contribute to or exacerbate such existing pollution or source of pollution or contamination by hazardous waste or prevent the investigation or remediation of such pollution or contamination. Such municipality shall not interfere with, and shall provide access to, other persons who are investigating and remediating any such pollution or source of pollution or contamination by hazardous waste. This section does not limit or affect the liability of the owner or operator of the property on which such easement is located under any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, any obligation to address any such pollution or source of pollution or contamination by hazardous waste, or from any fines or penalties.

(c) Any municipality that acquires an easement for recreational use as provided in subsection (b) of this section shall ensure that any pollution or source of pollution or contamination from hazardous waste, on or emanating from such easement area, does not pose a risk to the public based upon the use of such easement.

§ 52-557f. Landowner liability for recreational use of land. Definitions.

As used in sections 52-557f to 52-557i, inclusive:

(1) "Charge" means the admission price or fee asked in return for invitation or permission to enter or go upon the land;

(2) "Land" means land, roads, water, watercourses, private ways and buildings, structures, and machinery or equipment when attached to the realty, except that if the owner is a municipality, political subdivision of the state, municipal corporation, special district or water or sewer district: (A) "Land" does not include a swimming pool, playing field or court, playground, building with electrical service, or machinery when attached to the realty, that is also within the possession and control of the municipality, political subdivision of the state, municipal corporation, special district or water or sewer district; and (B) "road" does not include a paved public through road that is open to the public for the operation of four-wheeled private passenger motor vehicles;

(3) "Owner" means the possessor of a fee interest, a tenant, lessee, occupant or person in control of the premises. "Owner" includes, but is not limited to, a municipality, political subdivision of the state, municipal corporation, special district or water or sewer district;

(4) "Recreational purpose" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following, or any combination thereof: Hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, pleasure driving, nature study, water skiing, snow skiing, ice skating, sledding, hang gliding, sport parachuting, hot air ballooning, bicycling and viewing or enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic or scientific sites.

§ 52-557g. Liability of owner of land available to public for recreation; exceptions.

(a) Except as provided in section 52-557h, an owner of land who makes all or any part of the land available to the public without charge, rent, fee or other commercial service for recreational purposes owes no duty of care to keep the land, or the part thereof so made available, safe for entry or use by others for recreational purposes, or to give any warning of a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity on the land to persons entering for recreational purposes.

(b) Except as provided in section 52-557h, an owner of land who, either directly or indirectly, invites or permits without charge, rent, fee or other commercial service any person to use the land, or part thereof, for recreational purposes does not thereby: (1) Make any representation that the premises are safe for any purpose; (2) confer upon the person who enters or uses the land for recreational purposes the legal status of an invitee or licensee to whom a duty of care is owed; or (3) assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to person or property caused by an act or omission of the owner.

(c) Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be deemed applicable to the duties and liability of an owner of land leased to the state or any subdivision thereof for recreational purposes.

§ 52-557h. Owner liable, when.

Nothing in sections 52-557f to 52-557i, inclusive, limits in any way the liability of any owner of land which otherwise exists: (1) For wilful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity; (2) for injury suffered in any case where the owner of land charges the person or persons who enter or go on the land for the recreational use thereof, except that, in the case of land leased to the state or a subdivision thereof, any consideration received by the owner for the lease shall not be deemed a charge within the meaning of this section.

§ 52-557i. Obligation of user of land.

Nothing in sections 52-557f to 52-557i, inclusive, shall be construed to relieve any person using the land of another for recreational purposes from any obligation which he may have in the absence of said sections to exercise care in his use of such land and in his activities thereon, or from the legal consequences of failure to employ such care.

§ 52-557j. Liability of landowner upon whose land snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, minibikes or minicycles are operated.

No landowner may be held liable for any injury sustained by any person operating a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, as defined in section 14-379, motorcycle or minibike or minicycle, as defined in section 14-1, upon the landowner's property or by any passenger in the snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or motorcycle, minibike or minicycle, whether or not the landowner had given permission, written or oral, for the operation upon his land unless the landowner charged a fee for the operation, or unless the injury is caused by the wilful or malicious conduct of the landowner.

§ 52-557k. Liability of landowner who allows persons to harvest firewood, fruits or vegetables or engage in maple-sugaring activities.

(a) As used in this section: (1) "Owner" means the possessor of a fee interest, a tenant, occupant or person in control of the premises; (2) "harvesting" means the cutting and removal of designated standing trees, down trees, tree tops and other logging slash or debris suitable for use as firewood or the picking and removal of designated fruits or vegetables; (3) "charge" means the fee asked in return for a specified volume of firewood or a specified volume of fruits or vegetables and the right to harvest such firewood or such fruits or vegetables; and (4) "maple-sugaring" means the collection of sap from any species of tree in the genus Acer for the purpose of boiling to produce food.

(b) Any owner of land who invites or permits any person (1) to enter the land or a part thereof to harvest firewood, with or without charge, or (2) to enter the land or a part thereof to harvest fruits or vegetables or engage in maple-sugaring activities, without charge, on behalf of a nonprofit organization or nonprofit corporation for use by such nonprofit organization or nonprofit corporation or for distribution to other nonprofit organizations or nonprofit corporations, shall not be liable for damages as a result of injury to such person when such injury arises out of the use of the land or out of the act of harvesting firewood, harvesting fruits or vegetables, or engaging in maple-sugaring activities, unless such injury is caused by such owner's failure to warn of a dangerous hidden hazard actually known to such owner.

(c) This section shall not apply to (1) an owner who sells more than one hundred cords of firewood each calendar year, (2) an owner who operates a "pick or cut your own agricultural operation" as defined in section 52-568a, (3) an owner who operates an agricultural operation to which the public is invited and charged for produce harvested and removed from the land, or (4) an owner who operates a maple-sugaring operation to which the public is invited and charged for products derived from the maple-sugaring operation or collects more than a nominal fee from other persons for maple-sugaring on the owner's property.