

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRIDGEPORT LAWMAKERS APPLAUD HOUSE PASSAGE OF TREE REMOVAL BILL

Representatives **Ezequiel Santiago** (D-130th) and **Christopher Rosario** (D-128th) applauded passage of an environment-friendly bill providing clarity on regulations governing the removal of trees on municipal properties.

The measure prohibits activities such as cutting, painting or marking trees, shrubs, rocks or any other natural objects on municipal property unless appropriate authorization is obtained in addition to posting notices of work to be performed in the area.

Rep. Rosario said, "I am pleased to see this legislation put in place, not only for the sake of protecting our environment, but to allow residents the courtesy of knowing ahead of time what is happening in their surrounding areas as it relates to removing or cutting trees. Trees in public access areas are prized commodity in big cities like ours. We need to do our part to protect them and treat them with the consideration they deserve."

The legislation carries the same penalties as in existing law to those who violate any of the provisions committed on public ways and grounds. In addition to restoring the land to its prior condition, fines can go up to \$5,000 depending on the violation such as illegally removing, pruning or defacing a tree for land restoration and other costs. Other offenses can be classified as class C misdemeanors and include up to three months in prison.

"The esthetics of our city, and quality of life, are greatly enhanced by the conditions of trees and other vegetation that surrounds us," **Rep. Santiago** said. "This legislation controls unscrupulous individuals that do not hold the health of our natural environment to the same standards. I look forward to this bill becoming law."

The bill now goes to the senate for consideration. The regular legislative session ends June 7.

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