



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 437

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6374

House of Representatives, April 24, 2001

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. STRATTON of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANTS COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (a) There is established the Connecticut Invasive Plants
2 Council that shall be within the Department of Agriculture, for
3 administrative purposes only.

4 (b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) One
5 representative of the Department of Agriculture; (2) one representative
6 of the Department of Environmental Protection; (3) one representative
7 of The University of Connecticut College of Agriculture; (4) one
8 representative of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; (5)
9 one representative of a nonprofit environmental organization; (6) one
10 representative of a nonprofit gardening organization; (7) one
11 representative of the plant and flower growing and retailing industry;
12 (8) one representative of a nonprofit wildlife association; (9) one
13 representative of a nonprofit lake association; (10) one representative

14 of a nonprofit river association; (11) one representative of a nonprofit
15 park association; and (12) any participating member of the Connecticut
16 Invasive Plant Working Group.

17 (c) The council shall annually elect a chairperson from among its
18 membership. Said chairperson shall have the authority to convene and
19 preside over council meetings. The council shall meet at least twice
20 annually and may, by majority vote, increase its membership.

21 (d) The council shall: (1) Research, develop and conduct a program
22 to educate and publicize to the general public and merchants of both
23 aquatic and land-based plants the issues and problems posed by
24 invasive plants; (2) make information regarding invasive plants
25 available to any person or group that requests such information; (3)
26 make recommendations to the Department of Environmental
27 Protection on appropriate actions for the control of nonnative invasive
28 plant species; and (4) in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
29 statutes, submit an annual report to the standing committee of the
30 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
31 environment detailing the activities of the council and the council's
32 recommendations for legislation to control nonnative invasive plant
33 species.

34 (e) The council may use such funds as may be available from
35 federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out
36 the purposes of this section.

37 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Protection, University of Connecticut College of Agriculture, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

The bill establishes a Connecticut Invasive Plants Council within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for administrative purposes only. The legislation allows the council to use federal, state, and other funds. No funding currently exists for the Council and DOA does not have resources for the council's use. It is anticipated that administrative support, report preparation/distribution and other duties would cost approximately \$35,000, based on history. In addition, if the council would need to contract for studies, additional costs would be incurred.

Any increase in workload due to membership on the council for the Department of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and the Agricultural Experiment Station is anticipated to be minimal and handled within normal budgetary resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6374

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANTS COUNCIL.

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze special acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0