



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2001

File No. 294

Senate Bill No. 735

Senate, April 17, 2001

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. WILLIAMS of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING RECREATIONAL FISHING IN CONNECTICUT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-117 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 Any person who violates any provision of sections 26-102 and 26-
4 111 to 26-116, inclusive, or any regulation issued by the commissioner
5 pursuant thereto shall be fined [~~seventy-seven~~] one hundred fifty-four
6 dollars. Each fish taken or possessed contrary to said provisions or to
7 the regulations issued by the commissioner shall constitute a separate
8 offense.

9 Sec. 2. Section 26-141 of the general statutes is repealed and the
10 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

11 Any person who violates any provision of this part for the violation
12 of which no other penalty is provided shall be fined [~~seventy-seven~~]
13 one hundred fifty-four dollars. Each fish taken or possessed in

14 violation of any provision of this part shall constitute a separate
15 offense.

16 Sec. 3. Section 26-186 of the general statutes is repealed and the
17 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

18 Any person who violates any provision of this part for which no
19 other penalty is provided shall be fined not more than [fifty] one
20 hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both, and
21 each fish or crustacean taken or possessed in violation of any provision
22 of said sections shall constitute a separate offense.

23 Sec. 4. Not later than January 1, 2002, the Department of
24 Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of
25 Agriculture, shall submit a report on its findings and
26 recommendations concerning the effect of commercial and recreational
27 fishing activities on glass eel beds in the state to the joint standing
28 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
29 relating to the environment, in accordance with the provisions of
30 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

31 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect from its passage.

ENV *Joint Favorable*

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: Potential Minimal Revenue Gain, Minimal Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Agriculture

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

Any increase in state revenue due to the doubling of fines for certain Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sport and commercial fishing violations is anticipated to be minimal. In calendar year 2000, there were 199 offenses and approximately \$10,500 in fines collected.

Requiring DEP to submit a report to the Environment Committee on or before January 1, 2002, on the effect of commercial and recreational fishing activities on glass eel beds, will minimally increase the workload of DEP. It is anticipated that preparation of the report will require the diversion an employee for approximately 1/12 of a man-year away from other duties. Any increase in the workload of the Department of Agriculture due to consulting with DEP is anticipated to be minimal and can be handled within existing agency resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 735

AN ACT CONCERNING RECREATIONAL FISHING IN CONNECTICUT.**SUMMARY:**

This bill doubles the fines for violating various sport and commercial fishing laws and regulations. It also requires the Environmental Protection and the Agriculture departments to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2002 on the effect of commercial and recreational fishing on the state's glass eel beds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

SPORT FISHING

The bill doubles, from \$77 to \$154, the fine for violating (1) sport fishing laws for which there are no specific penalties and (2) other specified sport fishing laws and regulations. The former laws include obstructing streams for the purpose of taking fish, and ice-fishing in certain lakes. The latter laws include taking fish out of season, taking more than the daily or seasonal limit of fish, and taking fish of less than legal length. The commissioner also may regulate where and how fish may be taken, designate certain areas for the use of children or people with handicaps, and regulate the use of watercraft in certain areas. Certain other sport fishing violations have specific penalties that the bill does not change, such as the use of explosives to catch fish, or selling carp or goldfish as bait fish.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

The bill increases from \$50 to \$100 the maximum fine for violating commercial fishing laws for which no other penalty is provided. These include using nets, trawls, or seines in areas where their use is prohibited.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 28 Nay 0