



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 650

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 803

Senate, May 1, 2013

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through SEN. DUFF of the 25th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF OYSTER HARVESTERS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Economic and
2 Community Development shall study the development of
3 entrepreneurial programs for the next generation of oyster harvesters
4 in the waters between and adjoining the islands known as the Thimble
5 Islands and the waters adjoining the area known as Pawson Park. Such
6 study shall include, but not be limited to, evaluating the number of
7 young oyster harvesters and whether it is feasible for such harvesters
8 to develop an entrepreneurial business in said locations. On or before
9 July 1, 2015, the department shall submit a report, in accordance with
10 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of
11 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
12 commerce and environment, evaluating the study and recommending
13 whether to develop a pilot program or permanent program to develop
14 entrepreneurial programs for young oyster harvesters. In the event the

15 Department of Economic and Community Development recommends
 16 a pilot program or permanent program, said department shall submit
 17 a copy of such report to the Department of Transportation. The
 18 Department of Transportation shall comment on the feasibility of
 19 developing any such program not more than sixty days after such
 20 report has been submitted to said department.

21 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Public Health shall
 22 study the effects on public health of consuming eastern oysters
 23 (*Crassostrea virginica*) which are between two and three inches long.
 24 On or before July 1, 2015, said department shall report, in accordance
 25 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, the results of such study to
 26 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
 27 cognizance of matters relating to commerce, environment and public
 28 health.

29 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of fifty thousand dollars is
 30 appropriated to the Department of Economic and Community
 31 Development, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
 32 30, 2014, for the payment of costs incurred by said department in
 33 completing the study pursuant to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ET Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	50,000	20,000
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - Cost	50,000	None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to conduct a study on the development of entrepreneurial programs for oyster harvesters. **Section 3** of the bill appropriates \$50,000 to the Department of Economic and Community Development from the General Fund to finance a study.

It is anticipated that DECD would incur a one-time cost of approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 associated with consulting services for an economic analysis which would be necessary to complete the study. The appropriation provided in Section 3 would therefore sufficiently cover all potential costs.

Section 2 results in a cost to the Department of Public Health (DPH) of \$50,000 in FY 14 and \$20,000 in FY 15. Costs to DPH are associated with contracting for the study of the public health effects of eating eastern oysters that are between two and three inches long.¹ It is anticipated that the contractor will conduct interviews, enter data into

¹Infectious Diseases Section staff positions are primarily supported by federal funds through cooperative agreements, which necessitate the dedication of staff time to federally funded activities.

the Connecticut Electronic Disease Surveillance System database and perform Statistical Analysis System (SAS) analysis² of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data. BRFSS is a telephonic survey coordinated by the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It is anticipated that BRFSS data will be collected in FY 14 at a cost of \$30,000 that fiscal year. The CDC contracts with ICF Macro, Inc. to conduct BRFSS for participating states and the cost to the states is based on the number and complexity of questions in the survey.

sHB 6350, the FY 14 and FY 15 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, does not include appropriations for either DECD or DPH for these purposes.

The Out Years

The bill includes an appropriation for DECD in FY 14 only. It is therefore anticipated that DECD will finish the study within FY 14 and incur no additional costs in the outyears.

DPH must report on its study by 7/1/15. It is assumed the agency will terminate study activities as of this date, eliminating any cost to DPH in the out years.

²The software licensing cost for SAS is \$1,500 annually.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 803*****AN ACT CONCERNING ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF OYSTER HARVESTERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and Department of Public Health (DPH) to study, respectively, (1) the development of entrepreneurial programs for young oyster harvesters and (2) the public health effects of eating certain eastern oysters. The departments must report to the legislative committees of cognizance by July 1, 2015.

The bill appropriates \$50,000 to DECD from the General Fund for FY 14 to complete its study.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DECD STUDY

The bill requires DECD to study the development of entrepreneurial programs for the “next generation” of oyster harvesters in the waters between and around the Thimble Islands and those near the Pawson Park area, which are waters off of Branford. The study must include evaluating the number of young oyster harvesters and whether it is feasible for them to establish a business in that location.

Under the bill, DECD must report by July 1, 2015 to the Commerce and Environment committees. The report must evaluate the study and recommend whether to develop a pilot or permanent program to develop entrepreneurial programs for young harvesters. If DECD recommends developing a program, it must give the Department of Transportation (DOT) a copy of the report. The bill requires DOT, within 60 days after receiving a copy, to comment on the feasibility of

developing such a program.

DPH STUDY

The bill requires DPH to study the public health effects of eating eastern oysters that are between two and three inches long. (Current law sets the minimum size for harvesting oysters at three inches long (CGS § 26-234b)). DPH must, by July 1, 2015, report its study results to the Commerce, Environment, and Public Health committees.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The Senate referred the bill (File 61), which dealt with aquaculture job growth, to the Energy and Technology Committee, which reported a substitute bill with the current provisions.

Related Bill

sSB 805 (File 479), reported favorably by the Environment Committee, reduces, from three to two inches long, the size of eastern oysters that can be taken from Connecticut waters.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 11 (03/04/2013)

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (04/18/2013)