



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 363

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5583

House of Representatives, March 31, 2016

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ALBIS of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ANNUAL WATER LEVEL DRAW DOWNS AT BASHAN LAKE IN THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before November 1,
2 2017, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
3 enter into an agreement with the town of East Haddam and the Bashan
4 Lake Association regarding a schedule for annual water level draw
5 downs of Bashan Lake. The agreed upon draw down level shall be
6 required to control weeds, prevent property damage and erosion into
7 said lake and prevent reduction in association property values. Such
8 water level draw downs shall be designed to balance the various
9 concerns of the lake community, including recreational needs,
10 preservation of lakefront infrastructure, fisheries habitat and other
11 natural resource concerns. On and after the effective date of this
12 section, the Bashan Lake Association shall monitor Bashan Lake and
13 submit any petition concerning such a draw down to the town of East
14 Haddam not later than sixty days prior to the date of commencement

15 for any such draw down.

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

ENV *Joint Favorable*

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:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

This bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to enter into an agreement with the town of East Haddam and the Bashan Lake Association by November 1, 2017 regarding a schedule for annual water level drawdowns of Lake Bashan.

As DEEP has expertise in dam management and the municipality has expertise in inland wetlands management there is no fiscal impact anticipated.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5583*****AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ANNUAL WATER LEVEL DRAW DOWNS AT BASHAN LAKE IN THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the energy and environmental protection commissioner to enter into an agreement with the town of East Haddam and the Bashan Lake Association by November 1, 2017 regarding a schedule for annual water level draw downs of Lake Bashan.

The parties must agree on a draw down level that controls weeds and prevents property damage, property erosion into the lake, and association property devaluation. The bill specifies that the draw downs must be designed to balance the concerns of the lake community, including recreational needs, lakefront infrastructure preservation, fisheries habitat, and other natural resource concerns.

The bill requires the Bashan Lake Association to monitor Bashan Lake and submit to East Haddam any petition about a draw down at least 60 days before a draw down is to begin.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/16/2016)