



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Raised Bill No. 426

LCO No. 2090



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING ABANDONED FISHING GEAR IN LONG ISLAND SOUND.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-23 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 Any weapon, article, [or] implement, netting, trap or device capable
4 of being used for the purpose of the commercial or recreational taking,
5 catching or holding of any fish, crustacean, mollusk, wild or game
6 bird, wild or game quadruped, reptile or amphibian, which is
7 abandoned, derelict or discarded or thrown away in an attempt to
8 destroy or conceal evidence or to prevent apprehension, may be seized
9 or removed and taken into possession by any conservation officer or
10 the Department of Agriculture, as applicable. If the owner or person
11 having custody of any such article, weapon, implement, netting, trap
12 or device at the time it is abandoned, discarded or thrown away fails to
13 claim such article within one year after it comes into the possession of
14 such officer or department, such article shall be forfeited to the state
15 and may be retained for use by the [commissioner] Commissioner of

16 Energy and Environmental Protection or the Commissioner of
17 Agriculture, as applicable, may be sold at public auction or may be
18 destroyed at the discretion of [said] the applicable commissioner. The
19 proceeds from such sales shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be
20 credited to the General Fund.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-23
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Statement of Purpose:

To better address the problem of abandoned commercial fishing gear in Long Island Sound and allow for its removal and disposal.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]