



Substitute House Bill No. 6637

Public Act No. 19-190

AN ACT REQUIRING AN INVASIVE SPECIES STAMP FOR THE OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE AND ENFORCEMENT OF NOISE ORDINANCES ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2020*) (a) Any person who registers a vessel or renews a vessel registration pursuant to section 15-144 of the general statutes and who intends to operate or allow such vessel to be operated on the waters of the state shall concomitantly, in addition to the remittance of any fee required pursuant to section 15-144 of the general statutes, pay an Aquatic Invasive Species fee of five dollars. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall cause all revenues collected pursuant to this section to be deposited in the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account established in section 14-21aa of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) Any person who intends to operate or allow a vessel to be operated on the inland waters of the state that is registered in another state shall, prior to such operation, pay an Aquatic Invasive Species fee of twenty dollars to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. Such fees shall be paid annually and such payment shall be valid until the last day of December of such year. The Commissioner of

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Energy and Environmental Protection shall cause all revenues collected pursuant to this subsection to be deposited in the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account established in section 14-21aa of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Any person who operates a vessel on the inland waters of the state in violation of the provisions of this subsection shall have committed an infraction and shall be fined not more than eighty-five dollars.

Sec. 2. Section 14-21aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

(a) There is established an account to be known as the "Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account". The Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account shall be a separate, nonlapsing account of the General Fund. Any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account shall be deposited in and credited to the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account. The account shall be available to the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for (1) restoration and rehabilitation of lakes, rivers and ponds in the state; (2) programs of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the eradication of aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria blooms; (3) education and public outreach programs to enhance the public's understanding of the need to protect and preserve the state's lakes, rivers and ponds; (4) allocation of grants to state and municipal agencies and not-for-profit organizations to conduct research and to provide public education and public awareness to enhance understanding and management of the natural resources of the state's lakes, rivers and ponds; (5) provision of funds for all services that support the protection and conservation of the state's lakes, rivers and ponds; and (6) reimbursement of the Department of Motor Vehicles for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing and replacing Save Our Lakes commemorative number plates, including administrative expenses, pursuant to section 14-21z.

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(b) The commissioner may receive private donations to the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account and any such receipts shall be deposited in the account.

(c) The commissioner may provide for the reproduction and marketing of the Save Our Lakes commemorative number plate image for use on clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementoes, or other products or programs deemed by the commissioner to be suitable as a means of supporting the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account. Any funds received by the commissioner from such marketing shall be deposited in the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, not less than eighty per cent of any funds deposited into the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account pursuant to section 1 of this act shall be utilized for the purposes described in subdivisions (2) to (4), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any environmental conservation police officer of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has the authority to enforce the noise ordinance of any municipality that abuts Candlewood Lake on the waters of such lake. In the event that multiple towns that abut such lake have a noise ordinance, any such officer is authorized to enforce the noise ordinance of the municipality that establishes the most restrictive standard for noise upon the waters of such lake.

Approved July 9, 2019