



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 183

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 6637

House of Representatives, March 28, 2019

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. DEMICCO, M. of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING AN INVASIVE SPECIES STAMP FOR THE OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) Any person who
2 registers a vessel or renews a vessel registration pursuant to section 15-
3 144 of the general statutes and who intends to operate or allow such
4 vessel to be operated on the waters of the state shall concomitantly, in
5 addition to the remittance of any fee required pursuant to section 15-
6 144 of the general statutes, purchase an Invasive Species Stamp. Such
7 stamp shall expire with the applicable registration for such vessel. The
8 fee for such stamp shall be five dollars. The Commissioner of Motor
9 Vehicles shall cause all revenues collected pursuant to this section to
10 be deposited in the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation
11 account established in section 14-21aa of the general statutes, as
12 amended by this act.

13 (b) Any person who intends to operate or allow a vessel to be
14 operated on the waters of the state that is registered in another state

15 shall, prior to such operation, purchase an Invasive Species Stamp
16 from the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. The
17 fee for such stamp shall be twenty dollars. Such stamp shall expire on
18 the last day of April of the year following its issuance. The
19 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall cause all
20 revenues collected pursuant to this subsection to be deposited in the
21 Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account established
22 in section 14-21aa of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

23 Sec. 2. Section 14-21aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

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

47 (b) The commissioner may receive private donations to the

48 Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account and any
49 such receipts shall be deposited in the account.

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

58 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, eighty per cent of
59 any funds deposited into the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds
60 Preservation account pursuant to section 1 of this act shall be utilized
61 for the purposes described in subdivisions (2) to (4), inclusive, of
62 subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2019	14-21aa

ENV 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 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Department of Motor Vehicles; Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Connecticut lakes, rivers, and ponds preservation account - Revenue Gain	up to \$500,000	up to \$500,000
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Cost	up to \$50,000	None

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Various Municipalities	See Below	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The Invasive Species Stamp is anticipated to result in a revenue gain of approximately \$500,000 to the designated account dependent on the number of boats. This estimate assumes the average number of Connecticut boat registrations and renewals between FY 16 - FY 18 will pay the \$5 fee and approximately 1,000 out of state boats will pay the \$20 fee.¹

Additionally, the bill would result in a one-time cost of up to \$50,000 for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to create an invasive species stamp with an associated fee (\$5 for in state and \$20 for out of state) for individuals who register a vessel intended to

¹ The average number of boat registrations and renewals between FY 16 - FY 18 is 95,804.

operate on state waters. It is anticipated that DMV would need this funding for initial expenses incurred for creating and printing the stamp.

The bill also requires DMV and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to deposit all invasive species stamp fees into the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers, and Ponds Preservation account. Currently, the account is specific to lakes and ponds; the bill expands its use to include rivers.

Additionally, the bill requires that 80% of the proceeds generated by the stamp be used by DEEP for various invasive aquatic species programs, including grants to state agencies and municipalities to conduct research and provide education on managing state lakes, rivers, and ponds. It is estimated that approximately \$400,000 would be distributed for this purpose representing a potential revenue gain in this amount to state agencies and various municipalities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to number of boat registrations and renewals, and grants distributed under the program.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6637*****AN ACT REQUIRING AN INVASIVE SPECIES STAMP FOR THE OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires a person who registers a vessel (i.e., generally any type of watercraft except a seaplane) in Connecticut or in another state and who intends to operate it, or allow it to be operated, on state waters, to purchase an invasive species stamp. The stamp costs \$5 for in-state vessels and \$20 for out-of-state vessels.

A person registering a vessel in Connecticut with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) must purchase the stamp from DMV. The stamp expires with the registration, which expires on April 30 of the year following its issuance. A person with a vessel registered out of state must purchase the stamp from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). An out-of-state vessel's stamp expires on April 30 of the year following its issuance.

The bill requires DMV and DEEP to deposit all invasive species stamp proceeds into the renamed Connecticut lakes, rivers, and ponds preservation account. Under current law, the account is specific to lakes and ponds. The bill expands its purposes to include rivers.

Lastly, the bill requires that 80% of the invasive species stamp proceeds be used by DEEP for (1) programs to eradicate aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria blooms; (2) education and public outreach programs about protecting and preserving state lakes, rivers, and ponds; and (3) grants to state and municipal agencies and nonprofit organizations to conduct research and provide education on managing state lakes, rivers, and ponds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

CONNECTICUT LAKES, RIVERS, AND PONDS PRESERVATION ACCOUNT

The bill renames the Connecticut lakes and ponds preservation account as the Connecticut lakes, rivers, and ponds preservation account. (By law, it is a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account.) It also expands the account's purposes to include rivers.

Thus, the bill requires the DEEP commissioner to use the money in the account for the following purposes:

1. restoring and rehabilitating Connecticut lakes, rivers, and ponds;
2. DEEP programs to eradicate aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria blooms;
3. education and public outreach programs to enhance the public's understanding of the need to preserve and protect the states' lakes, rivers, and ponds;
4. allocating grants to state and municipal agencies and nonprofit organizations to conduct research and provide public education on managing state lakes, rivers, and ponds;
5. funding services that support the protection and conservation of the state's lakes, rivers, and ponds; and
6. reimbursing DMV for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and replacing Save Our Lakes commemorative license plates, including administrative expenses.

By law, proceeds from DMV's sale of Save Our Lakes plates are deposited to the account. The DEEP commissioner may also receive private donations to the account.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/08/2019)