



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 659

January Session, 2019

Substitute Senate Bill No. 588

Senate, April 15, 2019

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING OFF-SHORE DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN CONNECTICUT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-473 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) No person may engage in exploratory drilling for oil or gas until
4 the regulations required by section 22a-472 are adopted.

5 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
6 no person shall engage in drilling for oil or gas, exploratory or
7 otherwise, in the territorial waters of the state. No state agency or
8 department, including, but not limited to, the Department of Energy
9 and Environmental Protection, shall issue or approve any permit,
10 lease, contract or conveyance for, or relating to, the drilling for oil or
11 gas in the territorial waters of the state.

12 (c) No person shall engage in the practice of seismic mapping in the

13 territorial waters of the state. No state agency or department,
 14 including, but not limited to, the Department of Energy and
 15 Environmental Protection, shall issue or approve any permit, lease,
 16 contract or conveyance for, or relating to, seismic mapping in the
 17 territorial waters of the state. For the purposes of this section, "seismic
 18 mapping" means the use of sound wave technology to locate and map
 19 rocks and other geological formations below the Earth's surface that
 20 may contain oil or gas for the purpose of facilitating the exploration for
 21 or drilling of oil or gas.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	22a-473

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

The bill prohibits drilling for oil or gas, and seismic mapping in state waters. Additionally, the bill prohibits all state agencies, including the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, from issuing or approving a permit, lease, contract, or conveyance for, or relating to, drilling for oil or gas or seismic mapping in state waters.

This has no fiscal impact as drilling for oil or gas, and seismic mapping does not currently occur, nor is expected to occur, in state waters.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 588*****AN ACT PROHIBITING OFF-SHORE DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN CONNECTICUT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits drilling for oil or gas, whether exploratory or otherwise, and seismic mapping in state waters. Under the bill, “seismic mapping” means using sound wave technology to locate and map rocks and other geological formations that may contain oil or gas to facilitate exploring or drilling for oil or gas.

The bill also prohibits all state agencies, including the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), from issuing or approving a permit, lease, contract, or conveyance for, or relating to, drilling for oil or gas or seismic mapping in state waters.

By law, no one may engage in exploratory drilling for oil or gas until DEEP adopts regulations about hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) waste. (DEEP has not adopted fracking regulations to date.) The bill’s provisions apply despite this law. Thus, even if DEEP adopts fracking regulations, drilling for oil or gas in state waters will still be prohibited under the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

SB 753 (File 56), favorably reported by the Environment Committee, generally bans dealing with fracking waste, natural gas waste, or oil waste in Connecticut. It maintains existing law’s exception for conducting research on small amounts of waste, but it requires the DEEP commissioner, before approving a research request, to adopt

regulations that, among other things, eliminate the exemption in the state's hazardous management regulations for drilling fluids, produced waters, and other wastes associated with exploring, developing, or producing crude oil, natural gas, or geothermal energy.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 2 (03/25/2019)