

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6637

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

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

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

\$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 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.