

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.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 9130), House "B" (LCO 10476)
House Calendar No.: 133

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
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

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

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

Explanation

The Invasive Species fee 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

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

The bill also requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (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.

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.

Additionally, the bill may result in a cost to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) associated with hiring an additional Environmental Conservation (EnCon) officer to enforce the bill's provisions, to the extent existing EnCon officers are shifted away from existing duties.

Lastly, the bill establishes an infraction for vessels that operate on the inland waters of the state without the Invasive Species Stamp. This is anticipated to result in a minimal revenue gain to the General Fund dependent on the number of infractions.

House "A" struck the language of the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact, replacing it with the language discussed above.

House "B" adds the provision concerning DEEP's enforcement of certain municipal noise ordinances, resulting in the impact described above.