

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-6637

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

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 9130

File Copy No.: 183

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
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Cost	up to \$50,000	None

Note: TF=Transportation Fund; GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

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

Explanation

The amendment strikes the bill and its associated fiscal impact.

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

Primary Analyst: AB
Contributing Analyst(s):

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pay the \$5 fee and approximately 1,000 out of state boats will pay the \$20 fee.¹

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

The amendment 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 amendment 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.

Lastly, the amendment 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.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.

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