

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-840

AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S SHELLFISH RESTORATION PROGRAM AND THE CONNECTICUT SEAFOOD COUNCIL.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 7495)

Senate Calendar No.: 138

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:***

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Grand List Reduction	None	Potential

## ***Explanation***

The bill results in a potential grand list reduction in certain municipalities by expanding the PA 490 program to include underwater farmland used for aquaculture.

The bill results in a grand list reduction in a municipality where this type of farmland exists to the extent that it is currently being assessed at fair market value. Any grand list reduction results in a revenue loss, given a constant mill rate. Due to the timing of the bill, any impact would first occur in FY 23.

The bill allows the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to obtain shellfish cultch for deposit on shellfish beds in addition to purchasing it. This has no fiscal impact since it codifies current practice. The agency is currently collecting shellfish cultch from municipalities by sweeping public beaches. This bill also allows DoAg to contract with a

shell recovery vessel to collect and deposit shell on shellfish beds. This has no fiscal impact to the General Fund since any new contracts would be funded through the "Shellfish Fund". It may, however, result in increased costs to the Shellfish Fund which is a separate, nonlapsing account of the General Fund administered by DoAg. The balance in this account is currently \$70,577.

The bill allows DoAg to seek new private, state, or federal grants for deposit into the Shellfish Fund. This may result in a revenue gain to the Shellfish Fund to the extent additional revenue is generated from these sources. Any revenue from these grants would be expected to offset any costs to the Shellfish Fund.

The bill restores the Connecticut Seafood Advisory Council and renames it the Connecticut Seafood Development Council. This has no fiscal impact.

Senate "A" results in a potential grand list reduction in certain municipalities by expanding the PA 490 program to include underwater farmland used for aquaculture.

### ***The Out Years***

The above identified fiscal impact will continue into the future subject to changes in municipal mill rates and grand lists.

*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.*