

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-242
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF
Title: EEL GRASS.
Vote Date: 3/28/2022
Vote Action: JOINT FAVORABLE
PH Date: 3/14/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Gary A. Winfield, 10th Dist.
Rep. Brandon Chafee, 33rd Dist.

Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To establish a working group to develop strategies for the restoration of eel grass along the state's shoreline. Eel grass is an important fish habitat that has declined markedly.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

NONE EXPRESSED

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

William Hyatt, ViceChair The Connecticut Fisheries Advisory Council

We support SB 242 because the creation of a work group to gather and synthesize information on the ecology and current condition of eel grass habitat, and to develop appropriate restoration strategies, is a first step in Connecticut long-term effort to restore the environmental health of Long Island Sound.

Nathan Frohling, Director of External Affairs, The Nature Conservancy

Eel grass is important ecologically both as habitat and as an indicator of ecological health. We need to continue working on understanding how best approach eel grass restoration and the proposed working group can be instrumental.

Bill Lucey Long Island Sound Keeper, Save the Sound

Eel grass an important habitat for spawning, rearing and cover for adult fish species and important food for species such Brandt. Eel grass meadows are also important for sequestering carbon from seawater into the bottom sediments and trapping sediment which can increase clarity. We welcome the creation of a working group to bring together not only professionals from CT but hopefully NY as well.

Bob Walls, Chair, Sustainable Fairfield Task Force

We support SB 242. Protecting Connecticut's natural environment along our watersheds is key to preserving biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Judith Ganswindt

Date: April 1, 2022