



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5140

LCO No. 1043



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE HAND-HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE
CRABS IN THE STATE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) No person shall engage in
2 the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs or the eggs of horseshoe crabs
3 from the waters of this state.

4 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
5 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
6 authorize the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs by permit for: (1)
7 Educational or scientific purposes provided the commissioner
8 determines that such harvesting will not cause harm to the horseshoe
9 crab population in this state, or (2) the collection of blood from
10 horseshoe crabs for biomedical purposes provided any such horseshoe
11 crab is returned, unharmed, to the waters from which it was collected.

12 (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
13 fined ten thousand dollars for a first offense and twenty-five thousand
14 dollars for any subsequent offense.

15 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
16 enforce the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs from the waters and shoreline of the state in order to protect the horseshoe crab population.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]