



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5143

LCO No. 1185



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) There is established within the
2 Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station the Office of Aquatic
3 Invasive Species. The office shall: (1) Coordinate research efforts
4 throughout the state to reduce duplication of effort and costs associated
5 with the control and eradication of aquatic invasive species, (2) serve as
6 a repository for state-wide data on the health of rivers, lakes and ponds
7 in relation to the presence of aquatic invasive species, (3) perform
8 regular surveys on the health and ecological viability of waterways in
9 the state in relation to the presence and threat of aquatic invasive
10 species, (4) educate the public about aquatic invasive plants and efforts
11 the public can take to reduce the impact of such invasive species, (5)
12 advise municipalities on management of aquatic invasive species, and
13 (6) serve as a liaison among organizations and state agencies for issues
14 pertaining to the eradication and control of aquatic invasive species,
15 including organizations and agencies such as the Department of Energy
16 and Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture, the

17 Army Corps of Engineers, the Connecticut Federation of Lakes and
18 Ponds Associations, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
19 municipal inland wetlands commissions, the Connecticut River
20 Conservancy and councils of governments. The board of control for the
21 Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, as described in section 22-
22 79 of the general statutes, shall determine the staffing of the Office of
23 Aquatic Invasive Species, within available resources. The office shall not
24 have authority to issue any permit or fine.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish an Office of Aquatic Invasive Species to be able to effectively coordinate and address the problems posed by such species in the waters of the state.

[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.]