



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5143

February Session, 2022



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, (6)
13 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 United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Connecticut Federation of
18 Lakes and Ponds Associations, the United States Fish and Wildlife
19 Service, municipal inland wetlands commissions, the Connecticut River

20 Conservancy and councils of governments, and (7) coordinate with the
21 Invasive Plants Council, established in section 22a-381 of the general
22 statutes, when undertaking the efforts and responsibilities described in
23 this section. The board of control for the Connecticut Agricultural
24 Experiment Station, as described in section 22-79 of the general statutes,
25 shall determine the staffing of the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species,
26 within available resources. The office shall not have authority to issue
27 any permit or fine.

28 Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) The Department of Energy and
29 Environmental Protection, within available resources, shall establish a
30 public education program concerning the department's "Clean, Drain &
31 Dry" technique for boaters before leaving a boat launch and install signs
32 concerning such technique at each state boat launch.

33 Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) There is established an account
34 to be known as the Save Our Waterways account which shall be a
35 separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. Moneys in such
36 account shall be used to fund efforts to control and eradicate aquatic
37 invasive species throughout the state. Such account shall contain all
38 moneys required by law to be deposited in such account. Such account
39 may receive funds from private or public sources, including, but not
40 limited to, any municipal government or the federal government.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2022	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2022	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2022	New section

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.

APP Joint Favorable