
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5141 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FISH SPECIES.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits a person from taking or landing, per day, 200 pounds or more of the following bait species: tidewater silverside, Atlantic silverside, sand lance or sand eels, and bay anchovy. Under the bill, each violation is a separate infraction.

The bill also requires the energy and environmental protection commissioner to make available to the public, free of charge, a printed fishing guide for the 2023 season.

*House Amendment "A" (1) makes the (a) limit on taking or landing certain fish species a daily, rather than trip, limit and (b) penalty for a violation an infraction and (2) adds the fishing guide provision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022, except the fishing guide provision is effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Infractions

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus a \$20 or \$35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the amount of the fine. (There may be other added charges based on the type of infraction. For example, certain motor vehicle infractions trigger a surcharge of 50% of the fine.) An infraction is not a crime, and violators can pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/04/2022)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/11/2022)