

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 22-51—sHB 5141

Environment Committee

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FISH SPECIES

SUMMARY: This act 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 act, each violation is a separate infraction.

The act 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.

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.