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## OLR Bill Analysis

**HB 6484**

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits hand-harvesting horseshoe crabs or their eggs from state waters. However, it authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to allow, by permit, hand-harvesting horseshoe crabs for educational or scientific purposes if she determines it will not harm the state's horseshoe crab population.

The bill (1) subjects a person to a \$25 fine for each specimen taken in violation of its provisions and (2) requires the DEEP commissioner to enforce it.

This bill's provisions apply regardless of current laws, which allow hand-harvesting horseshoe crabs as a type of "general commercial fishing" (CGS § 26-142a(a)(9)). Also, state law currently prohibits hand-harvesting horseshoe crabs in certain areas of Stratford and makes a violation an infraction (CGS § 26-292b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32    Nay 0    (02/17/2023)