



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 124

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 5602

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMERCIAL SEISMIC SURVEYING IN LONG ISLAND SOUND FOR GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-473 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) No person may engage in exploratory drilling for oil or gas until
4 the regulations required by section 22a-472 are adopted.

5 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
6 no person shall engage in drilling for oil or gas, exploratory or
7 otherwise, in the coastal waters of the state. No state agency or
8 department, including, but not limited to, the Department of Energy
9 and Environmental Protection, shall issue or approve any permit, lease,
10 contract or conveyance for, or relating to, the drilling for oil or gas in the
11 coastal waters of the state.

12 (c) No person shall engage in the practice of seismic mapping in the

13 coastal waters of the state. No state agency or department, including,
 14 but not limited to, the Department of Energy and Environmental
 15 Protection, shall issue or approve any permit, lease, contract or
 16 conveyance for, or relating to, seismic mapping in the coastal waters of
 17 the state. For the purposes of this section, "seismic mapping" means the
 18 use of sound wave technology to locate and map rocks and other
 19 geological formations below the Earth's surface that may contain oil or
 20 gas for the purpose of facilitating the exploration for or drilling of oil or
 21 gas.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	22a-473

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact since the activities being prohibited under the bill ("fracking" and seismic mapping, among others) do not occur now and are not expected to happen in state coastal waters.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5602*****AN ACT PROHIBITING HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMERCIAL SEISMIC SURVEYING IN LONG ISLAND SOUND FOR GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits drilling for oil or gas, whether exploratory or otherwise, and seismic mapping in state coastal waters. Under the bill, “seismic mapping” means using sound wave technology to locate and map rocks and other subsurface geological formations that may contain oil or gas to facilitate exploring or drilling for oil or gas.

The bill also prohibits state agencies, including the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), from issuing or approving a permit, lease, contract, or conveyance for, or relating to, drilling for oil or gas or seismic mapping in state coastal waters.

By law, no one may engage in exploratory drilling for oil or gas until DEEP adopts updated regulations to address hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) waste. (DEEP has not adopted fracking regulations to date.) The bill’s provisions apply despite this law. Thus, under the bill, even if DEEP adopts fracking regulations, drilling for oil or gas in state coastal waters will still be prohibited.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 9 (03/03/2023)