

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6811

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE VESSEL REGISTRATION

Title: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES FEE.

Vote Date: March 24, 2023

Vote Action: JFS to the floor

PH Date: 3/10/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Provide an aquatic invasive species for the application as required by federal law.

JFS Language:

Clarified requirement to apply to persons operating vessels, regardless of where such vessel is registered.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection:

Commissioner Dykes testified that this bill is important because her department has been instructed by the federal Department of Homeland Security to address the inconsistencies or risk losing a portion of the \$1.4 million granted annually through the State Recreational Boating Safety Program from the United States Coast Guard.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Rhea Drozdenko, River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy:

Ms. Drozdenko testified that as an environmental nonprofit dedicated to protecting the Connecticut River funding from the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation is critical to help us restore, eradicate, prevent and educate about invasive species.

Roger Kuhns, Shirley McCarthy and Dorothy McIver submitted testimony in support of the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Garrett Friedrichsen:

Mr. Friedrichsen testified in opposition to the aquatic invasive fee because they are brought into our state by commercial vessels, and they should bear the cost.

Reported by: Pamela Bianca

Date: March 20,2023