

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 23-6—HB 6484**

*Environment Committee*

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

**SUMMARY:** This act generally 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 act (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.

The act's provisions apply regardless of other laws, including one that allows hand-harvesting horseshoe crabs as a type of "general commercial fishing" (CGS § 26-142a(a)(9)) and another that prohibits hand-harvesting horseshoe crabs in certain areas of Stratford and makes a violation an infraction (CGS § 26-292b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023