



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6811

LCO No. 4503



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE VESSEL REGISTRATION
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES FEE.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-21bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

3 (a) Any person who [registers a vessel or renews a vessel registration
4 pursuant to section 15-144 and who intends to operate or allow such
5 vessel to be operated on the waters of the state shall concomitantly, in
6 addition to the remittance of any fee required pursuant to section 15-
7 144, pay an] intends to operate a vessel on the inland waters of the state
8 that is required to display a registration decal shall possess an
9 individual Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp. The fee [of five] for such
10 stamp shall be seven dollars. [The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
11 cause all revenues collected pursuant to this section to be deposited in
12 the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account
13 established in section 14-21aa.] The Department of Energy and
14 Environmental Protection shall issue such stamp through the On-line
15 Sportsmen Licensing system of the department. Any such stamp shall

16 be valid for the calendar year in which it was issued.

17 (b) [Any] Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
18 section, any person who [intends to operate or allow a vessel to be
19 operated on the inland waters of the state that is registered in another
20 state shall, prior to such operation, pay an] owns a vessel that is required
21 to display a registration decal may purchase a vessel Aquatic Invasive
22 Species Decal in lieu of the requirement of subsection (a) of this section
23 that each person who operates such vessel obtain an individual Aquatic
24 Invasive Species Stamp. Any person who operates a vessel bearing a
25 valid vessel Aquatic Invasive Species Decal shall be deemed to have met
26 the requirements of subsection (a) of this section while operating such
27 vessel. The fee [of] for such vessel Aquatic Invasive Species Decal shall
28 be twenty dollars, [to] provided the Commissioner of Energy and
29 Environmental Protection [. Such fees shall be paid annually and such
30 payment shall be valid until the last day of December of such year.] may
31 charge an additional fee of not more than five dollars for the production,
32 processing and mailing of such decal. The Department of Energy and
33 Environmental Protection shall issue such decal through the On-line
34 Sportsmen Licensing system of the department. Any such decal shall be
35 valid for the calendar year in which it was issued. Any such vessel
36 Aquatic Invasive Species Decal shall be permanently affixed to the
37 vessel for which it was purchased approximately amidship on the port
38 side of the vessel either on the hull of the vessel or at the operator's
39 station and in such a manner as to be visible to law enforcement officers
40 approaching by vessel from the port side of such vessel.

41 (c) The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not
42 be construed to apply to the operator of any vessel that is numbered
43 pursuant to section 15-145, provided such number bears the suffix of
44 "DL", "XP", "MS" or "YB" and displays a current registration validation
45 decal.

46 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
47 cause all revenues collected pursuant to this subsection to be deposited
48 in the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account

49 established in section 14-21aa.

50 (e) Any person who operates a vessel on the inland waters of the state
51 in violation of the provisions of this [subsection] section shall have
52 committed an infraction and shall be fined not more than eighty-five
53 dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	14-21bb

Statement of Purpose:

To conform the application of the aquatic invasive species fee for vessels to the requirements of federal law and provide for a vessel Aquatic Invasive Species Decal.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]