



Substitute House Bill No. 6811

Public Act No. 23-154

**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:

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 Section 14-21bb of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

(b) [Any] Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this

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

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

(d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall cause all revenues collected pursuant to this subsection to be deposited

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in the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account established in section 14-21aa.

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

Approved June 26, 2023