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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 5222

#### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NO-WAKE ZONE ON THE PAWCATUCK RIVER.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill creates a “slow-no-wake” zone for boating vessel operators on the Pawcatuck River, which is near the Rhode Island border, between Pawcatuck Rock (red marker No. 16) and Graves Neck (red marker No. 6). It makes a violation of the zone an infraction, and requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to administer the provision.

“Slow-no-wake” is defined in DEEP boating safety regulations. It means that a vessel must (1) produce no more than a minimum wake and (2) not go faster than six miles per hour over the ground unless a higher speed is needed to maintain steerage in strong currents. In no case can the vessel’s wake be strong enough to cause injury to people or damage to vessels or structures (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 15-121-A1(j)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/08/2024)