
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5350

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF BOATING LAWS ON BODIES OF WATER NEAR THE RHODE ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK BORDERS.

SUMMARY

This bill grants people with authority to enforce boating laws (e.g., environmental conservation officers and patrolmen) the power to make arrests on any part of waters lying between Connecticut and a neighboring state for violations and bring the violator to trial in the state where the violation happened. However, they may only exercise this cross-border authority if Massachusetts, New York, or Rhode Island enacts a similar law. Existing law grants this arrest authority when enforcing fish and game laws on the waters lying between the states under the same condition.

Currently, only the U.S. Coast Guard can enforce boating laws on interior bodies of water that touch adjoining states, and it generally only enforces federal boating regulations. State officers generally are restricted to enforcing laws within the boundaries of their respective state unless they are subject to a specific cross-border agreement or compact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/20/2024)