



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 201**

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6384

*House of Representatives, March 30, 2021*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. BORER of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES' EFFECTS ON LAKES AND RELATED FUNDING.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-339h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

3 On or before November 1, [2006] 2021, the Commissioner of Energy  
4 and Environmental Protection shall enter into an agreement with the  
5 town of Middlefield and the Lake Beseck Association regarding a  
6 schedule for annual water level draw downs of Lake Beseck. Water level  
7 draw downs shall be three feet during even-numbered years with  
8 completion achieved by December first of such year and maintained  
9 until March first of the following year. Water level draw downs shall be  
10 six feet during odd-numbered years achieved by November first of such  
11 year and maintained until [December] January thirty-first of [such] the  
12 following year; a three-foot water level draw down shall be maintained  
13 thereafter until March first of the following year. Such water level draw  
14 downs are designed to balance the various concerns of the lake

15 community, including: Recreational needs, preservation of lakefront  
16 infrastructure, fisheries habitat and other natural resource concerns.

17 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2021, the  
18 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall submit a  
19 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the  
20 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
21 matters relating to the environment on the amount of revenue collected  
22 from the Aquatic Invasive Species fees authorized pursuant to section  
23 14-21bb of the general statutes and the number, value and purpose of  
24 any grants to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations awarded  
25 from the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account in  
26 accordance with section 14-21aa of the general statutes. The  
27 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide the Commissioner of  
28 Energy and Environmental Protection with any information necessary  
29 to perform the requirements of this section. Such report may include any  
30 recommendations from the Commissioner of Energy and  
31 Environmental Protection on additional means for funding projects to  
32 control or eradicate aquatic invasive species by municipalities and lake  
33 authorities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	22a-339h
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**ENV** Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Middlefield	Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill extends, from December to January, the down period of Lake Beseck in odd-numbered years. This results in potential savings to the Town of Middlefield. It is anticipated that extending the down period of the lake may increase, at no additional cost, the effectiveness of this method of treating invasive aquatic species. This may consequently reduce the need for other treatment methods. Any savings is expected to be minimal.

The bill also requires that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) submit various AIS reports to the Environment Committee. This has no fiscal impact as these agencies currently have the staff and expertise for this purpose.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6384*****AN ACT CONCERNING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES' EFFECTS ON LAKES AND RELATED FUNDING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill provides for a longer six-foot draw down period of Lake Beseck in odd-numbered years. It requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to enter into an agreement with Middlefield and the Lake Beseck Association about the lake's annual water level draw down by November 1, 2021.

By law, in odd-numbered years, the six-foot draw down must be achieved by November 1. The bill requires the draw down to be maintained until January 31, instead of December 31 as under current law.

The bill also requires DEEP to report to the Environment Committee by October 1, 2021, on the (1) amount of revenue collected from the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) fee and (2) number, value, and purpose of any grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations from the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account (see BACKGROUND). DEEP may also report on recommendations for additional ways to fund municipalities' and lake authorities' AIS control or eradication projects.

The bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner to give the DEEP commissioner any information necessary for DEEP to complete its AIS report.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021, except the DEEP reporting requirement is effective upon passage.

**BACKGROUND**

**Aquatic Invasive Species Fee**

By law, owners of registered vessels (i.e., generally, any type of watercraft except a seaplane) must pay an annual AIS fee. The fee is \$5 for in-state vessels (payable to DMV when registering a vessel) and \$20 for out-of-state vessels (payable to DEEP) (CGS § 14-21bb). DMV and DEEP must deposit all AIS fee proceeds in the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account. DEEP must use the account for various purposes, including allocating grants to state and municipal agencies and nonprofit organizations to conduct research and provide public education on managing state lakes, rivers, and ponds (CGS § 14-21aa).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/12/2021)