
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5140

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HAND-HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS IN THE STATE.

SUMMARY

This bill generally prohibits the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs or their eggs from state waters. This applies regardless of any related existing laws (see BACKGROUND).

Despite the general prohibition, the bill authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to allow the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs, by permit, for (1) educational or scientific purposes if she determines it will not harm the state's horseshoe crab population or (2) collecting horseshoe crab blood for biomedical purposes if the crab is returned, unharmed, to the water where it was collected.

The bill (1) subjects a person to a \$25 fine for each specimen taken in violation of the bill and (2) requires the DEEP commissioner to enforce its provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Related Laws

Under existing law, the term "general commercial fishing" includes the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs (CGS § 26-142a(a)(9)). Also, existing law makes hand-harvesting horseshoe crabs in areas of Stratford an infraction (CGS § 26-292b).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/21/2022)