



**PA 22-144**—sSB 241  
*Environment Committee*

## **AN ACT CONCERNING BOATING SAFETY**

**SUMMARY:** This act requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to establish a schedule of retention fees that lake authorities may keep for issuing fines to people who violate state boating laws. By law, any two or more towns that have a body of state water within their territorial limits may establish a lake authority by ordinance. The lake authority must cooperate with the DEEP commissioner to enforce boating laws on the water (CGS § 7-151a).

Additionally, the act does the following:

1. allows law enforcement or fire rescue vessels to use either an audible signal device or flashing lights, rather than both, to indicate that nearby vessels (e.g., boats) must slow and, if able, alter course;
2. requires someone operating a vessel to slow to a slow-no-wake speed (i.e., produce a minimum wake and generally go no more than six miles an hour) if they are within 200 feet of a commercial vessel that is responding to or towing a vessel in distress and using flashing red or yellow lights; and
3. allows the DEEP commissioner to disapprove local boating ordinances that duplicate state law or regulation.

By law, towns may adopt local boating ordinances, but they must submit them to DEEP and if the commissioner does not disapprove them within 60 days after submission the ordinances may take effect. The law already allows the commissioner to disapprove local boating ordinances for other reasons (e.g., being unreasonable or unnecessarily restrictive).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2022, except the lake authority retention fee provision is effective July 1, 2022.