



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 24

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6480

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF EEL GRASS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The co-chairpersons and ranking
2 members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
3 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment shall convene
4 a working group on the restoration of eel grass along the state's
5 shoreline. Such working group shall consist of members of shoreline
6 conservation commissions, members of municipal shellfish
7 commissions, a marine biologist from The University of Connecticut at
8 Avery Point, a student from the Marine Science Magnet School in
9 Groton and Save the Sound's Long Island Soundkeeper. The co-
10 chairpersons, in consultation with the ranking members, of said joint
11 standing committee shall select the members and chairperson of such
12 working group. The chairperson of such working group shall
13 commence the first meeting of such working group not later than thirty
14 days after the effective date of this section. Such working group shall

15 develop strategies for the preservation, restoration and expansion of eel
 16 grass along the state's shoreline. In developing such strategies, the
 17 working group shall review and synthesize information from studies
 18 performed by the states of New York and Rhode Island, including, but
 19 not limited to, Tier 1 mapping of *Zostera marina* in Long Island Sound
 20 and change analysis performed by the University of Rhode Island. Not
 21 later than February 1, 2024, the chairperson of such working group shall
 22 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
 23 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
 24 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment
 25 detailing the work of such working group, including, but not limited to,
 26 explanations of any such strategies and identification of any priority
 27 areas of the shoreline for the implementation of such strategies.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV Joint Favorable

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:** None**Explanation**

The bill requires certain members of the Environment Committee to convene a working group on the restoration of shoreline eel grass and issue a report no later than February 1, 2024.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for working group members.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6480

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF EEL GRASS.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (02/17/2023)