



General Assembly

***Raised Bill No. 6480***

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 2951



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***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  
4 convene a working group on the restoration of eel grass along the  
5 state's shoreline. Such working group shall consist of members of  
6 shoreline 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  
14 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Such working group  
15 shall develop strategies for the preservation, restoration and expansion  
16 of eel grass along the state's shoreline. In developing such strategies,

17 the working group shall review and synthesize information from  
18 studies performed by the states of New York and Rhode Island,  
19 including, but not limited to, Tier 1 mapping of *Zostera marina* in  
20 Long Island Sound and change analysis performed by the University  
21 of Rhode Island. Not later than February 1, 2024, the chairperson of  
22 such working group shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
23 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
24 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
25 relating to the environment detailing the work of such working group,  
26 including, but not limited to, explanations of any such strategies and  
27 identification of any priority areas of the shoreline for the  
28 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*