



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 100

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5222

House of Representatives, March 25, 2024

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 NO-WAKE ZONE ON THE PAWCATUCK RIVER.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) No person shall operate a
2 vessel in excess of slow-no-wake on the Pawcatuck River between the
3 area known as "Pawcatuck Rock" at Red Navigation Marker No. 16 and
4 the area known as "Graves Neck" at Red Navigation Marker No. 6.

5 (b) Any violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be an
6 infraction. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
7 shall administer the provisions of this section in accordance with
8 chapter 268 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
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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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which establishes a slow-no-wake zone on a portion of the Pawcatuck River and makes a violation of the zone an infraction, results in a potential annual minimal General Fund revenue gain from fines beginning in FY 25. The amount of the revenue gain, if any, depends on the number of boaters fined and the amount of the infraction fine, which is not defined by the bill. If the bill passes and is codified with the portion of statute addressing boating safety, the fine will be \$80; however, if codified elsewhere, the fine is unknown.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of fines levied and any changes in the applicable fine.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5222

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NO-WAKE ZONE ON THE PAWCATUCK RIVER.

SUMMARY

This bill creates a “slow-no-wake” zone for boating vessel operators on the Pawcatuck River, which is near the Rhode Island border, between Pawcatuck Rock (red marker No. 16) and Graves Neck (red market No. 6). It makes a violation of the zone an infraction, and requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to administer the provision.

“Slow-no-wake” is defined in DEEP boating safety regulations. It means that a vessel must (1) produce no more than a minimum wake and (2) not go faster than six miles per hour over the ground unless a higher speed is needed to maintain steerage in strong currents. In no case can the vessel’s wake be strong enough to cause injury to people or damage to vessels or structures (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 15-121-A1(j)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/08/2024)