



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 277

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5350

House of Representatives, April 4, 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 CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF BOATING LAWS ON BODIES OF WATER NEAR THE RHODE ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK BORDERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 If and when the state of Rhode Island, the state of Massachusetts or
4 the state of New York enacts a similar law for arrest and punishment for
5 violations of the boating or fish and game laws of this state, or of the
6 state of Rhode Island, the state of Massachusetts or the state of New
7 York, committed or attempted to be committed by any person or
8 persons boating or fishing in that portion of any waters lying between
9 any of such states and this state, any game protector, conservation
10 officer, fish and game warden, special conservation officer, patrolman
11 or other person of either state who is authorized to make arrests for such
12 violations of the boating or fish and game laws of any such other state
13 or this state shall have authority to make arrests on any part of any such

14 waters lying between such states and to take the person or persons so
15 arrested for trial to the state in which the violation was committed, for
16 prosecution according to the laws of such state.

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | 26-26 |

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 results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as it does not require additional resources to be dedicated to enforcing boating laws.

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

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5350

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF BOATING LAWS ON BODIES OF WATER NEAR THE RHODE ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK BORDERS.

SUMMARY

This bill grants people with authority to enforce boating laws (e.g., environmental conservation officers and patrolmen) the power to make arrests on any part of waters lying between Connecticut and a neighboring state for violations and bring the violator to trial in the state where the violation happened. However, they may only exercise this cross-border authority if Massachusetts, New York, or Rhode Island enacts a similar law. Existing law grants this arrest authority when enforcing fish and game laws on the waters lying between the states under the same condition.

Currently, only the U.S. Coast Guard can enforce boating laws on interior bodies of water that touch adjoining states, and it generally only enforces federal boating regulations. State officers generally are restricted to enforcing laws within the boundaries of their respective state unless they are subject to a specific cross-border agreement or compact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/20/2024)