

Commerce Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5189

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF WAYS TO PROMOTE AND GROW

Title: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ON THE STATE'S COASTLINE AND WATERWAYS.

Vote Date: 3/26/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/27/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

REP. BAUMGARDNER

REP. SIMMS

REP. CHEESEMAN

REP. GEE

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut boasts a deep maritime history and possesses significant potential for economic growth along its coastline and waterways. However, to effectively harness this potential, it is crucial to understand the current landscape and identify strategies to promote sustainable economic activity.

Substitute Language: LCO NO. 3220

Amend section 1 to add "Effective from passage"

Amend section 2 to add "Effective from passage"

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Keefe, Dan, Commissioner Designate-DECD-Opposes

Mr. O'Keefe opposes HB-5189 since DECD does not have the resources to undertake additional mandates, including studies. However, the agency would be happy to lend their expertise and participate on a task force or working group on this topic.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Brophy, Christina, Senior Vice President-Mystic Seaport Museum-Supports

Cubina, Katie, Sr VP for Mission Programs-Mystic Aquarium-Supports

Ms. Brophy and Ms. Cubina are in support of HB-5189 providing that the study includes a broad and diverse group of stakeholders to inform the study, and that the conservation and sustainable use of our coastline and waterways remains at the forefront.

Petzold, Bob-CT Marine Trades Association-Supports

Mr. Petzold is in support of HB-5189 providing that the following specific enabling language in the bill that will include a working group to review of the dredging permit process (that include representative from state agencies as well as stakeholders like our group, the CT Maritime Association and the CT Port Authority).

Thayer Mahan-supports

Thayer Mahan is in support of HB-5189 and believes Connecticut should promote and grow maritime economic activity, or the rapidly growing blue economy will benefit other states that do.

Whitescarver, Paul, Executive Director-seCTer

Mr. Whitescarver is in support of HB-5189 and believes a study of the "blue economy" in Connecticut and ways to promote and grow economic activity on the coastline and waterway is a great way to raise its economic competitiveness and make it more business friendly.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Hassan Ismail

04/02/2024