



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5189**

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF WAYS TO PROMOTE AND GROW ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ON THE STATE'S COASTLINE AND WATERWAYS AND A SMALL HARBOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ACCOUNT.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Economic and  
2 Community Development shall conduct a study of the state's "blue  
3 economy" and ways to promote and grow economic activity on the  
4 state's coastline and waterways. Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
5 commissioner shall submit a report on the results of such study to the  
6 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
7 matters relating to commerce, in accordance with the provisions of  
8 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

9 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Connecticut Port  
10 Authority shall establish an account to be known as the "small harbor  
11 improvement projects account". There shall be deposited in the account:  
12 (1) The proceeds of notes, bonds or other obligations issued by the state  
13 for the purpose of deposit therein and used in accordance with the  
14 permissible uses thereof; (2) funds appropriated by the General  
15 Assembly for the purpose of deposit therein and used in accordance  
16 with the permissible uses thereof; and (3) any other funds required or  
17 permitted by law to be deposited in the account. The funds in said

18 account shall be expended by the authority for the purpose of initiating  
19 small harbor improvement projects in accordance with section 13b-55a  
20 of the general statutes and for the purposes described in subsection (b)  
21 of this section.

22 (b) The small harbor improvement projects account may be used (1)  
23 for federal and nonfederal dredging projects to (A) support, in full or in  
24 part, local and state matching requirements for such projects; (B) cover  
25 the incremental costs associated with applicable environmental  
26 regulatory requirements or management practices, including beneficial  
27 use; and (C) cover part or all of the costs of such projects in the absence  
28 of adequate federal funds; and (2) to fund private maritime  
29 infrastructure projects. If the account is used for the purpose described  
30 in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the authority  
31 shall pursue reimbursement to the account from the federal  
32 government.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**  
Section 2(b) was redrafted for accuracy.

**CE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*