

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-313

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPEED LIMIT FOR LAKE MASHAPAUG IN UNION.

Vote Date: 2/19/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 1/31/2025

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

Co-Sponsors:

Sen. Jeff Gordon, 35th Dist.

Rep. Kurt Vail, 52nd Dist

REASONS FOR BILL:

To establish a spend limit for Mashapaug Lake

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

DEEP supports the intent of SB 313. However, DEEP suggest alternative legislation that would provide EnCon officers with authority to enforce municipal boating regulations without the added delay of implementing regulations. Specifically, they suggest amending CGS 26-6(a) by adding language:

Such officers also are authorized to enforce boating laws adopted by municipal ordinance and that have taken effect pursuant to Sec. 15-136 of the general statutes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Senator Jeff Gordon, 35th District

Sen. Gordon supports SB 313 because its an important legislative effort to improve public safety and preserve the quality of life and public safety for those living by Lake Mashapaug in Union and in the Bigelow Hollow State Park area. Currently, DEEP regulations prevent the Town of Union from posting speed limit signs at the lake, which limits efforts to enforce the speed limit and manage boat traffic. SB 313 would remedy this issue by allowing the Town of Union the authority to post signs for the current 10 mph speed limit. This change would significantly enhance responsible and needed enforcement capabilities.

David D. Eaton, First Selectman, Town of Union

The First Selectman of the Town of Union supports SB 313. Lake Mashapaug is in Bigelow Hollow State Park with public access and boat launch, it is primarily used for fishing, swimming, canoeing and kayaking. It is not a Lake that is conducive to speed boats, water skiing, tubing or the like. The Town of Union currently has an ordinance that limits the speed on the Lake to 10 mph, the issue is they do not have a way to enforce it, they do not have police department or resident trooper program. SB 313 will help to sure up their ordinance by giving DEEP the ability to enforce this speed limit.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No Testimony submitted in Opposition to SB 313

Reported by: Judy Ganswindt

Date: February 26, 2025