



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 392

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6248

House of Representatives, April 1, 2025

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR ILLEGALLY TAKING STRIPED BASS.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any
- 2 provision of title 26 of the general statutes, any person who violates any
- 3 regulation concerning the taking of striped bass, whether in the marine
- 4 or inland waters of the state, shall have committed an infraction and
- 5 shall pay a fine of two hundred fifty dollars by mail or plead not guilty
- 6 in accordance with the provisions of section 51-164n of the general
- 7 statutes.

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

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The reference to "chapter" was changed to "title" for accuracy.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 26 \$ | FY 27 \$ |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Department of Energy and Environmental Protection | GF - Revenue Gain | Minimal | Minimal |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a minimal revenue gain to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) by increasing the fine for the taking of striped bass. The increased fine is set at \$250 per violation. Currently, the fine for a violation in inland waters is \$154 and the fine for marine waters is \$75.

It is estimated that there were approximately 300 striped bass violations statewide, during the last calendar year. To the extent that these violations result in increased fees collected, there will be a revenue increase to DEEP. For each 100 inland water violations there will be \$9,600 in additional revenue and for each 100 marine water violations there will be \$17,500 in additional revenue.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of inland and marine water violations.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6248*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR ILLEGALLY TAKING STRIPED BASS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill increases the fine for violating any state regulation about the taking of striped bass. Specifically, it makes a violation an infraction and sets the fine at \$250 per violation, whether the violation happens in inland or marine waters. (An infraction is not a crime and a person may pay the fine or plead not guilty by mail.)

Currently, a violation in inland waters is subject to a \$154 fine (CGS § 26-117), and a violation in marine waters is an infraction subject to a fine of \$75 (CGS §§ 26-159a & 51-164n).

State regulations establish rules for taking striped bass, including minimum legal lengths and daily creel limits (Conn. Agencies Regs., §§ 26-112-45(k), 26-259a-2, 26-159a-4 & 26-159a-7).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/14/2025)