



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 398

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6914

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 REVISIONS TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT ACT.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 22a-113n of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (b) The plan may recommend: (1) Boundaries for development areas
5 to be approved and established by the Commissioner of Energy and
6 Environmental Protection in accordance with the provisions of section
7 22a-360; (2) designations for channels and boat basins for approval and
8 adoption by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
9 in accordance with the provisions of section 22a-340; (3) lines
10 designating the limits of areas for the location of vessels with persons
11 living aboard to be approved and adopted by the director of health in
12 accordance with section 19a-227; (4) pump-out facilities, including the
13 designation of no discharge zones in accordance with Section 312 of the
14 federal Clean Water Act; and (5) regulations for the operation of vessels

15 on the harbor pursuant to the provisions of section 15-136. Upon
16 adoption of the plan, any recommendation made pursuant to this
17 section shall be binding on any official of the state, municipality or any
18 other political subdivision when making regulatory decisions or
19 undertaking or sponsoring development affecting the area within the
20 commission's jurisdiction, unless such official shows cause why a
21 different action should be taken. Subsequent to such adoption of the
22 plan, any recommendation made by the commission in a written
23 document, such as a comment letter, shall be considered by any such
24 official of the state, municipality or any other political subdivision when
25 making regulatory decisions or undertaking or sponsoring
26 development affecting the area within the commission's jurisdiction,
27 provided such recommendation arises from content already included in
28 the plan.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22a-113n(b)
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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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes a procedural change by requiring municipal or state officials to consider written recommendations (e.g., a comment letter) by a harbor management commission, when making various decisions. This is not anticipated to result in a cost to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6914****AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT ACT.****SUMMARY**

This bill requires municipal or state officials to consider a harbor management commission's written recommendations (e.g., ones made in a comment letter) when the officials are making regulatory decisions or undertaking or sponsoring development affecting the commission's jurisdiction, but only if the recommendation arises from content already in an approved and adopted harbor management plan.

By law, a harbor management plan must identify existing and potential harbor problems; establish goals; and make recommendations for the harbor's use, development, and preservation, among other things. A municipal harbor management commission must have the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Connecticut Port Authority review and approve its plan before the municipality may adopt it (CGS §§ 22a-113m & -113n). Once adopted, any recommendations contained in the plan are binding on municipal and state officials making regulatory decisions or undertaking or sponsoring development affecting the commission's jurisdiction, unless the official shows cause for why a different action should be taken.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/14/2025)