

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6250

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEVELS OF STAFFING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL

Title: CONSERVATION OFFICERS.

Vote Date: 3/14/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2025

File No.: 393

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Brandon Chafee, 33rd Dist.

Rep. Joseph P. Gresko, 121st Dist.

Sen. Heather S. Somers, 18th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill provides a full staff of environmental conservation officers. The conservation officers are necessary for the enforcement of environmental regulations and protection of state wildlife. Without appropriate staffing, certain species and environmental health could not be easily sustained.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

William Tong, Attorney General

Attorney General William Tong submitted public hearing testimony in support of bill 6250. By increasing the level of environmental conservation staffing, the bill is giving Connecticut more tools to protect its wildlife. More conservation officers offer more enforcing power to laws related to poaching, which William Tong emphasizes is incredibly important to species with decreasing populations, like striped bass.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

The following organizations express support for this bill. Their submitted public hearing testimony describes the work conservation law enforcement provide for Connecticut. The bill ensures that the staffing levels will be continually reviewed and provided appropriate support to continue protecting the state's wildlife and resources.

Keith Cagle, President, Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen

Robert LaFrance, Director of Policy, National Audubon Society

19 citizens expressed support.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed opposition.

Reported by: Phoebe Mann

Date: March 20, 2025