

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-641

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR A BOAT WASHING
Title: STATION AT GARDNER LAKE IN THE TOWN OF SALEM.

Vote Date: 3/14/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Appropriations

PH Date: 3/3/2025

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. Martha Marx, 20th Dist.

Rep. Nick Gauthier, 38th Dist.

Rep. Nicholas Menapace, 37th Dist.

Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.

Rep. Kevin Ryan, 139th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Accidental boat transport of AIS is one of the leading causes of AIS transfer between water bodies. Gardner Lake would like DEEP to establish a pilot program for a boat washing station to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

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

DEEP is in support of the intent of the bill acknowledging that boat washing stations help reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species which clog up our lakes. Their concern is regarding the fiscal impact since Gardner Lake currently doesn't have water or power utilities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Sen. Martha Marx, 20th District.

Sen. Marx cosponsored this legislation to have DEEP establish a pilot program for a washing station at Gardner Lake in Salem to remove aquatic invasive species from their boats and to learn the proper method for the removal of plant material from the prop, hull, and motor of a boat. This will help in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species and make the lake more recreational friendly.

Rep. Nick Menapace, 37th District

As a resident of East Lyme and State Rep. of the 37th District, Rep Menapace points out the benefits of having these washing stations extended beyond Gardner Lake. This pilot program would serve as a model for protecting other water bodies across the state. Protecting our natural resources and supporting the recreational and economic activities that depend on a healthy ecosystem.

Other Organizations that Support SB 641 An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for a Boat Washing Station at Gardner Lake in the Town of Salem

Abigail Bernstein, Environmental Program Coordinator, Eightmile River Watershed

Kate Johnson, Citizens for Gardner Lake

Henry A.Granger Jr, Chairperson, Gardner Lake Authority

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Judy Ganswindt

Date: March 18, 2025