



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **9854**



Offered by:

REP. PARKER, 101st Dist.
REP. CALLAHAN, 108th Dist.
REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.
REP. DUBITSKY, 47th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **7174**

File No. 686

Cal. No. 426

"AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
4 group within the legislative branch to identify where and how
5 protection of vegetated riparian buffers in the state can be incorporated
6 into statutes and regulations in order to improve the health of and
7 protect the resources of the state's watercourses consistent with private
8 property rights, to respond to the projected impacts on watercourses
9 that are listed in the recommendations of the Governor's Council on
10 Climate Change and to meet the goals for the health of Long Island
11 Sound,. In undertaking its work, the working group shall: (1) Review
12 riparian buffer protection in other states, (2) examine the Department of
13 Energy and Environmental Protection's resources that are currently
14 dedicated to its Inland Wetland and Watercourses program, (3)

15 determine implications of existing case law on the protection of riparian
16 buffers, (4) make recommendations to the Department of Energy and
17 Environmental Protection for any changes to inland wetlands and
18 watercourses regulations, identify if and how the further protection of
19 vegetated riparian buffers should be incorporated into statutes and
20 regulations, and make recommendations for attendant legislation.

21 (b) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section,
22 the cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
23 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, in
24 consultation with the ranking members of said committee, shall jointly
25 select two cochairpersons for such working group. Not later than forty-
26 five days after the effective date of this section, the cochairpersons of
27 such working group shall select the membership of such working group
28 which shall include, but not be limited to: (1) One representative of the
29 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Department
30 of Transportation and the Office of Policy and Management, (2) a
31 representative of homebuilders, (3) two representatives of
32 environmental advocacy organizations working on water-related issues
33 and climate change, (4) a representative of cold water anglers, (5) two
34 representatives of municipal inland wetland commissions, one of whom
35 shall represent a town with a population of more than fifteen thousand,
36 and one of whom shall represent a town with a population of less than
37 fifteen thousand residents, (6) a representative of the Connecticut
38 Chapter of the American Planning Association, (7) one representative
39 from a council of governments, (8) a representative of the water utilities,
40 (9) a representative of an organization that represents the marine trades
41 in the state, (10) a representative of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, or its
42 designee, (11) a certified forester in this state, and (12) a representative
43 of realtors in this state.

44 (c) The cochairpersons of such working group shall convene such
45 working group not later than sixty days after the effective date of this
46 section. The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
47 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the

48 environment shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.
49 Not later than January 15, 2026, the working group shall submit a report
50 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
51 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
52 environment, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
53 general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it
54 submits such report or January 15, 2026, whichever is later."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section