

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5153

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RELATED STATUTES.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 5674)

House Calendar No.: 79

Senate Calendar No.: 537

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Sections 1 -9 of the bill make various changes to statutes related to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) that are clarifying, procedural and technical. These changes do not result in a fiscal impact.

Section 501 makes procedural changes to DEEP general permitting and does not result in a fiscal impact.

Section 502 makes procedural changes to water discharge permits and does not result in a fiscal impact to the state.

Sections 503 - 506 make various changes that limit activities across the state to prevent wildfires. The bill prohibits open brush burning within 100 feet of a woodland or grass land area when the DEEP commissioner identifies the forest fire risk as high or very high and

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5/2/26

extends the length of time the state forest fire warden may approve reimbursement for various emergency services. These procedural changes do not result in a fiscal impact as the agency currently has the ability to provide reimbursements beyond the one-month deadline.

Additionally, the bill (1) broadens the Governor's authority to ban access to and burning on certain woodlands and brushlands, and (2) increases the fine for violating a ban from a minimum of \$5 and a maximum of \$100, to a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1,000, resulting in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund beginning in FY 27¹. The extent of the revenue gain will depend on whether the governor enacts such a prohibition, the number of violations, and the fines imposed, with a minimum potential revenue gain of \$400 per violation.

Section 507 expands the number of people required to submit a petition to the DEEP for timely and effective fish passage and does not result in a fiscal impact to the state.

House "A" adds **Sections 501-507** to the fiscal impact described in the underlying bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations, and the fines imposed.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.

¹ In the past four years, no person has been charged or fined under CGS 23-50