

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5334

AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 5343

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OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	81,304	81,304
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	34,001	34,001

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
All Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
All Municipalities	Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

State Impact:

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and makes various changes to wetlands and watercourses resulting in a cost to the state of \$115,305 annually.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

Primary Analyst: SB
Contributing Analyst(s):
Reviewer: PR

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The amendment expands the scope and oversight of various wetlands and watercourses, which will result in the need for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to hire a new Environmental Analyst 2 to oversee the expansion. The new position will result in an annual salary of \$81,304 plus corresponding fringe benefits of \$34,001.

The amendment also requires DEEP in consultation with The University of Connecticut to convene an advisory group to oversee and make recommendations on various issues related to wetlands and watercourses. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the advisory group has the staff and expertise necessary to complete the requirements of the amendment.

Municipal Impact:

The amendment expands as of right operations related to uses in wetlands and watercourses. This may result in a potential savings to municipalities beginning in FY 27 to the extent fewer public hearings as held.²

The amendment also expands regulated activities in inland wetlands and watercourses. This may result in a potential revenue gain to municipalities to the extent these regulated activities are violated and a fine or penalty is imposed.³

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.

² It is anticipated any savings would be minimal as a municipality is typically only responsible for administrative costs associated with a public hearing.

³ Under existing law, violation of a regulated activity may result in a fine of up to \$1,000 per offense.