



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 435

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5521

House of Representatives, April 7, 2026

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING STERILE CULTIVARS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of chapter 446i of the general statutes, the sale, distribution
3 or offering for sale of a sterile cultivar of a plant species that is otherwise
4 prohibited from such sale, distribution or offering for sale shall be
5 permitted, provided the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
6 Protection, in consultation with the director of the Connecticut
7 Agricultural Experiment Station, determines that such cultivar is
8 incapable of reproducing or spreading under the environmental
9 conditions that are typical in the state. The commissioner may establish
10 standards for determining such sterility and may revoke approval if a
11 cultivar is found to pose an ecological risk. Nothing in this section shall
12 be construed to authorize the sale of nonsterile forms of any such
13 prohibited plant species.

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

The reference to "section 22a-381b" was changed to "chapter 446i", for clarity.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do 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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows the sale and distribution of sterile cultivars of species that are otherwise prohibited if the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, determines the cultivar is incapable of reproducing or spreading under Connecticut's typical environmental conditions. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as both agencies have the staff and expertise necessary to complete the new requirements contained within the bill.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5521*****AN ACT CONCERNING STERILE CULTIVARS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows the sale and distribution of sterile cultivars (plants specifically bred or engineered to produce few or no viable seeds) of species that are otherwise prohibited if the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station director, determines the cultivar is incapable of reproducing or spreading under Connecticut's typical environmental conditions. The bill allows the commissioner to (1) set standards for determining sterility and (2) revoke approval if she determines a cultivar is an ecological risk.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Invasive Plants***

By law, Connecticut bans the import, sale, and cultivation of several invasive plant species to protect native ecosystems (CGS § 22a-381d). The state's Invasive Plants Council, among other things, publishes a list of invasive or potentially invasive plants, researches and makes recommendations on the control of invasive plants, and educates the public on related issues (CGS § 22a-381a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 14 (03/18/2026)