



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 438

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5526

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 RECIPROCITY FOR CERTAIN INLAND WATERS FISHING LICENSES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) If and when the state of
2 New York, the state of Massachusetts or the state of Rhode Island, as
3 applicable, enacts a similar law granting reciprocal privileges to
4 residents of this state, any person who holds a license to fish in inland
5 waters in the state of New York, the state of Massachusetts or the state
6 of Rhode Island, as applicable, may fish in any inland waters in this state
7 without a nonresident inland waters license to fish as required by title
8 26 of the general statutes, provided such nonresidents shall be subject to
9 all other provisions of the general statutes and the regulations of the
10 commissioner relating to fishing in lakes and ponds.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The phrase "as applicable" was added for purposes of 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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a revenue loss to the General Fund associated with extending residents from New York, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island that hold an inland waters fishing license in their state, privileges to fish in Connecticut inland waters without a nonresident inland waters fishing license, if their state provides reciprocity to Connecticut residents. It is unknown how many fewer nonresident inland water fishing licenses would be sold annually; 100 fewer licenses will result in a revenue loss of approximately \$5,500 (each nonresident age 16 and older inland waters license is \$55).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of reciprocal licenses extended to residents of New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5526

AN ACT CONCERNING RECIPROCITY FOR CERTAIN INLAND WATERS FISHING LICENSES.

SUMMARY

This bill allows New York, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island residents who hold an inland waters fishing license in their state to fish in Connecticut inland waters without a nonresident inland waters fishing license if their state passes a similar reciprocal law for Connecticut residents. The bill requires them to follow all other Connecticut laws and regulations for fishing in lakes and ponds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 9 (03/18/2026)