



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 73**

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 148

*Senate, March 19, 2026*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO AQUACULTURE-RELATED STATUTES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 26-192e of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) The department shall [, by written order, promulgate] determine  
5 definite bounds of the area or areas closed to shellfishing when  
6 classified as conditional-closed, conditionally restricted, restricted or  
7 prohibited. Such [order] determination shall become effective when (1)  
8 [the closure classification is published in a newspaper having circulation  
9 in towns, cities and boroughs in which or adjacent to which any such  
10 area is situated; (2)] the classification is filed in writing or electronically  
11 in the offices of the clerk and the director of health in each such town,  
12 city or borough, [and (3)] (2) signs are posted at points on or near every  
13 such classified area, and (3) notice of the closure is posted on the  
14 department's Internet web site.

15 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,  
 16 when the Commissioner of Agriculture, after consultation with the  
 17 Commissioner of Public Health, finds that tidal flats, shores or coastal  
 18 waters which may contain shellfish are so contaminated or polluted that  
 19 a health emergency exists, [he] the commissioner may close such area  
 20 for the duration of such emergency by giving notice of such emergency  
 21 closure [(1)] in writing to the municipal or district health authority [, and  
 22 (2) to the general public by publication in a newspaper having general  
 23 circulation in the town, city or borough within which such area lies] and  
 24 any applicable municipal shellfish commission. Such notice shall state  
 25 when the closing shall take effect.

26 Sec. 2. Section 26-206 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from*  
 27 *passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-192e(b) and (c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

**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 Agriculture	GF - Savings	Less than 1,000	Less than 1,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

**Section 1** of the bill changes the notice requirements for areas that are closed to shellfishing and no longer requires notices to be posted in local newspapers. This will result in a minimal savings of less than \$1,000 annually, to the Department of Agriculture.

**Section 2** eliminates a law related to shellfish police, which has no fiscal impact as the shellfish police are no longer active.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 148*****AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO AQUACULTURE-RELATED STATUTES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill (1) changes the notice requirements for areas closed to shellfishing and (2) eliminates an obsolete law authorizing the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to appoint shellfish police.

By law, DoAg must classify areas for shellfish taking and may restrict or prohibit shellfishing from areas that fail to meet specified standards to minimize health risks. The bill eliminates the requirement that DoAg post notices about shellfishing area closures in local newspapers and instead requires the department to post these notices on its website. By law, the department must also (1) file the notices with local municipal clerks and health directors in affected towns, cities, or boroughs, and (2) post signs on or near affected areas. The bill specifies that the notices to municipal clerks and health directors may be filed in writing or electronically.

The bill similarly eliminates the requirement that the commissioner notify the general public about shellfishing area closures due to a health emergency by publishing the notice in a local newspaper. It instead requires him to notify any applicable shellfish commission in the affected area. By law, he must also notify the affected area's municipal or district health authority about the closure. The bill also makes technical changes.

Lastly, the bill eliminates DoAg's authority to appoint and commission shellfish police to patrol privately owned oystering areas at the request of specified entities, including oyster businesses, associations, and property owners. Under current practice,

environmental conservation officers serve this function through a memorandum of understanding with DoAg.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/04/2026)