

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5525

AN ACT CONCERNING A RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	up to 100,000	up to 100,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill results in an annual cost to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) of up to \$100,000 annually. The additional costs are associated with expedited permitting for rapid response actions, herbicide costs, and public outreach and education, including installing signs at waterbodies and boat ramps to educate the public about hydrilla.

The bill also establishes the Interagency Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force which includes members from DEEP and the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species (OAIS). This is not anticipated to result in a cost as DEEP and OAIS have the staff and expertise necessary to complete the requirements contained within the bill.

The bill results in a potential savings to municipalities beginning in

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FY 27 to the extent technical assistance is provided by DEEP to municipalities for planning and constructing boat washing stations at municipal boat launches. Any savings is dependent on what resources a municipality would have otherwise been required to use.

The Out Years

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