
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)