
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5602

AN ACT PROHIBITING HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMERCIAL SEISMIC SURVEYING IN LONG ISLAND SOUND FOR GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits drilling for oil or gas, whether exploratory or otherwise, and seismic mapping in state coastal waters. Under the bill, “seismic mapping” means using sound wave technology to locate and map rocks and other subsurface geological formations that may contain oil or gas to facilitate exploring or drilling for oil or gas.

The bill also prohibits state agencies, including the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), from issuing or approving a permit, lease, contract, or conveyance for, or relating to, drilling for oil or gas or seismic mapping in state coastal waters.

By law, no one may engage in exploratory drilling for oil or gas until DEEP adopts updated regulations to address hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) waste. (DEEP has not adopted fracking regulations to date.) The bill’s provisions apply despite this law. Thus, under the bill, even if DEEP adopts fracking regulations, drilling for oil or gas in state coastal waters will still be prohibited.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 9 (03/03/2023)