



House Bill No. 5222

Public Act No. 24-10

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NO-WAKE ZONE ON THE PAWCATUCK RIVER AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN RIPARIAN BUFFERS.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) No person shall operate a vessel in excess of slow-no-wake on the Pawcatuck River between the area known as "Pawcatuck Rock" at Red Navigation Marker No. 16 and the area known as "Graves Neck" at Red Navigation Marker No. 6.

(b) Any violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be an infraction. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall administer the provisions of this section in accordance with chapter 268 of the general statutes.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection may utilize funds available for stormwater infrastructure for the purpose of acquiring conservation easements located along streams and rivers in the state, provided any such conservation easement requires the property owner to maintain a buffer along such stream or river in a vegetated condition. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may determine the percentage of such funds

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to be utilized for the purposes described in this section. For purposes of this section, "vegetated condition" means the retention of native trees, shrubs and herbaceous cover in lieu of lawn, golf courses and athletic fields.