



**House Bill No. 6480**

**Special Act No. 23-7**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF EEL GRASS.**

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The co-chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment shall convene a working group on the restoration of eel grass along the state's shoreline. Such working group shall consist of members of shoreline conservation commissions, members of municipal shellfish commissions, a marine biologist from The University of Connecticut at Avery Point, a student from the Marine Science Magnet School in Groton and Save the Sound's Long Island Soundkeeper. The co-chairpersons, in consultation with the ranking members, of said joint standing committee shall select the members and chairperson of such working group. The chairperson of such working group shall commence the first meeting of such working group not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Such working group shall develop strategies for the preservation, restoration and expansion of eel grass along the state's shoreline. In developing such strategies, the working group shall review and synthesize information from studies performed by the states of New York and Rhode Island, including, but not limited to, Tier 1 mapping of *Zostera marina* in Long Island Sound

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and change analysis performed by the University of Rhode Island. Not later than February 1, 2024, the chairperson of such working group shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment detailing the work of such working group, including, but not limited to, explanations of any such strategies and identification of any priority areas of the shoreline for the implementation of such strategies.