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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF FISHING LAWS

Introduced By: Representative Megan L. Cotter

Date Introduced: May 06, 2026

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 20-23 of the General Laws entitled "Reciprocal Enforcement of  
2 Fishing Laws" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **20-23-2. Enforcement in state boundary waters of boating or fish and game laws.**

4 (a) If and when the state of Connecticut enacts a similar law for arrest and punishment for  
5 violations of boating or fish and game laws of this state, or of the state of Connecticut, committed  
6 or attempted to be committed by any person or persons boating or fishing in that portion of any  
7 waters lying between Connecticut and this state, any game protector, conservation officer, fish and  
8 game warden, special conservation officer, patrolman or other person of either state who is  
9 authorized to make arrests for such violations of boating or fish and game laws of any such other  
10 state or this state shall have authority to make arrests on any part of any such waters lying between  
11 such states and to take the person or persons so arrested for trial to the state in which the violation  
12 was committed, for prosecution according to the laws of such state.

13 (b) This section shall also apply and take effect if the state of Connecticut has such a law  
14 in effect as of the effective date of this section.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF FISHING  
LAWS

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- 1           This act would provide reciprocal enforcement of boating and fish and game laws with the
- 2 state of Connecticut on any part of waters lying between Connecticut and Rhode Island.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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