



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 291**

February Session, 2000

Substitute Senate Bill No. 504

*Senate, March 29, 2000*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. DAILY of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### ***An Act Establishing A Water Planning Council.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) There is established a Water Planning Council  
2 to convene a task force composed of representatives of water  
3 companies, municipalities, agricultural groups, environmental groups,  
4 and other water users and to make recommendations based on the  
5 information provided by the task force, as provided in subsection (d)  
6 of this section, to the General Assembly concerning issues involving  
7 the state's water companies, water resources and state policies  
8 regarding the future of the state's drinking water supply.

9 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

10 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
11 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
12 relating to energy and technology, or their designees;

13 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
14 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
15 relating to the environment, or their designees;

16 (3) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
17 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
18 relating to public health, or their designees;

19 (4) The chairperson of the Public Utility Control Authority, or the  
20 chairperson's designee;

21 (5) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the  
22 commissioner's designee;

23 (6) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
24 secretary's designee;

25 (7) The Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee;

26 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
27 designee; and

28 (9) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's  
29 designee.

30 (c) All appointments to the council shall be made no later than thirty  
31 days after the effective date of this act. Any vacancy shall be filled by  
32 the appointing authority.

33 (d) The task force appointed by the council shall study issues  
34 including, but not limited to, the financial viability, market structure,  
35 reliability of customer service and managerial competence of water  
36 companies, fair and reasonable rates, protection and appropriate  
37 allocation of the state's water resources and the adequacy and quality  
38 of the state's drinking water.

39 (e) Based on the information provided to the council, the council

40 shall, not later than January 1, 2003, report its findings and any  
41 proposed legislative changes to the appropriate joint standing  
42 committees of the General Assembly. The council shall terminate on  
43 the date that it submits its final report or January 1, 2003, whichever is  
44 earlier.

45       Sec. 2. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to  
46 the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, from the General  
47 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, for the purposes set forth  
48 in subsection (d) of section 1 of this act.

49       Sec. 3. This act shall take effect from its passage.

**ET    Committee Vote:**   Yea   16   Nay   0    JFS   C/R   ENV

**ENV   Committee Vote:**   Yea   23   Nay   0    JFS

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Cost

**Affected Agencies:** Legislative Management

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

**State Impact:**

There is a cost of \$100,000 for Legislative Management as a result of the passage of this bill. The bill appropriates \$100,000 to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. The funds will be used by the Water Planning Council for the purpose of establishing a task force that will study the financial viability, market structure, reliability of customer service and the managerial competence of water companies.

There is a potential minimal cost for the Office of Legislative Management and other state agencies participating in the task force to study water companies. State legislators and agency participants can request reimbursement for mileage expenses. This potential minimal cost can be handled within the anticipated budgetary resources of Legislative Management and the other agencies participating in the study. The House and Senate versions of the budget for FY01 do not contain \$100,000 for this study.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sSB 504

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WATER PLANNING COUNCIL.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a Water Planning Council, which must convene a task force of interested parties to study a variety of water resources issues. It specifies the council's membership, which includes the leaders of three legislative committees and relevant agency heads.

The council must report its findings and legislative recommendations, based on information provided by the task force, by January 1, 2003 to the appropriate committees (presumably those represented on the council). The report must address issues involving water companies, water resources, and state policies regarding the future of the state's drinking water supply. The council expires when it submits its report or January 1, 2003, whichever comes first.

The bill appropriates \$100,000 for the study from the FY 2000-01 appropriation to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

The council consists of (1) the chairs and ranking members of the Energy and Technology, Environment, and Public Health committees or their designees and (2) the following officials or their designees: (a) the environmental protection, public health, and agriculture commissioners, (b) the Department of Public Utility Control chairperson, (c) the consumer counsel, and (d) the Office of Policy and Management secretary. All council appointments must be made within 30 days of the bill's effective date. The appointing authority must fill any vacancy.

**TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP AND CHARGE**

The task force must consist of representatives of water companies, municipalities, agricultural and environmental groups, and other water users. It must study the following issues with regard to water companies: financial viability, market structure, reliability of customer service, and managerial competence. It also must study the rate fairness and reasonableness, the water resource protection and adequacy, and drinking water adequacy and quality.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference  
Yea 16 Nay 0

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 23 Nay 0