



An Act Establishing A Water Planning Council.

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

1 (NEW) (a) There is established a Water Planning Council to study
2 and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning
3 issues involving the state's water companies and water resources and
4 to define state policies regarding the future of the state's drinking
5 water supply. Such issues shall include, but not be limited to, the
6 financial viability, market structure, reliability of customer service, and
7 managerial competence of water companies, fair and reasonable rates,
8 the diversion of state waters and maintaining the integrity of state
9 waterways. The council shall work in conjunction with water
10 companies, regional water authorities, municipalities, recreational
11 users, river advocacy groups and other water users as well as with
12 other agencies and entities to carry out its duties under this act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (9) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's
33 designee.

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

37 (d) All members of the council shall be nonvoting members with the
38 exception of the members of the General Assembly. The members of
39 the council shall serve without compensation. The chairpersons of the
40 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
41 of matters relating to energy and technology shall serve as the
42 chairpersons of the council. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first
43 meeting of the council, which shall be held no later than sixty days
44 after the effective date of this act. In the absence of such chairpersons,
45 another voting member may convene a meeting of the council. The
46 voting members of the council may appoint additional advisory,
47 nonvoting members to the council and may employ such staff and
48 incur such expenses, within the resources set forth in section 2 of this
49 act, as required to carry out the purposes of this act. The Department

50 of Public Utility Control, the Department of Public Health and the
51 Department of Environmental Protection may make available technical
52 staff to further assist the council as required.

53 (e) The council shall, not later than January 1, 2001, and annually
54 thereafter until January 1, 2003, report its findings and proposed
55 legislative changes to the joint standing committee of the General
56 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
57 technology, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
58 general statutes. The council shall terminate on the date that it submits
59 its final report or January 1, 2003, whichever is earlier.

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

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Wording was rearranged slightly in subsection (a) of section 1 for clarity.

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