



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 177**

*January Session, 2001*

Substitute House Bill No. 6176

*House of Representatives, April 9, 2001*

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. GIANNAROS of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING WATER COMPANY CHOICE.***

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

1       (NEW) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any  
2       municipality that applied to its water utility coordinating committee  
3       for a revision to the service area boundaries of the public water system  
4       within the management area of such committee prior to September 1,  
5       1999, may select, by a majority vote of the legislative body of such  
6       municipality or the board of selectmen, a water company, as defined in  
7       section 25-32a of the general statutes, to service its residents.

***ET       JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST.***

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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:** None

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Public Health

**Municipal Impact:** See Explanation Below

**Explanation**

**State Impact:**

Since provisions within this bill are not anticipated to materially impact upon the Department of Public Health's regulatory responsibilities, no fiscal impact is implied for the agency.

**Municipal Impact:**

However, to the extent that eligible local governments choose to pursue procuring water services from different entities, a municipal cost may result. It is assumed that the decision to pursue this option, which could result in significant costs of anywhere from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars, depending upon the selected mode of service, would be dictated by the availability of locally budgeted resources.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6176

***AN ACT CONCERNING WATER COMPANY CHOICE.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows a municipality that meets certain criteria to choose which water utility will serve its residents. Under current law, Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCCs) consisting of the water utilities and regional planning agencies in an area are responsible for developing water system plans. The plans include the assignment of exclusive service areas and are subject to Department of Public Health approval. This bill allows a municipality that applied to its WUCC before September 1, 1999 for a revision of service area boundaries to choose any investor-owned or municipal water utility to serve its residents. This action requires a majority vote of the municipality's legislative body or board of selectmen.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13      Nay 0