



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1319

January Session, 2001

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WATER PLANNING COUNCIL.

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

1 (a) The chairperson of the Public Utility Control Authority, or the
2 chairperson's designee, the Commissioner of Environmental
3 Protection, or the commissioner's designee, the Secretary of the Office
4 of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, and the
5 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, shall
6 convene a Water Planning Council to address issues involving the
7 water companies, water resources and state policies regarding the
8 future of the state's drinking water supply.

9 (b) The Water Planning Council shall conduct a study, in
10 consultation with representatives of water companies, municipalities,
11 agricultural groups, environmental groups and other water users, that
12 shall include, but not be limited to, the following issues: (1) The
13 financial viability, market structure, reliability of customer service and
14 managerial competence of water companies; (2) fair and reasonable
15 water rates; (3) protection and appropriate allocation of the state's
16 water resources; (4) the adequacy and quality of the state's drinking
17 water and land use by the water companies; (5) the status of current
18 withdrawals, projected withdrawals, river flows and the future needs
19 of water users; (6) methods for measurement and estimations of
20 natural flows in Connecticut waterways in order to determine
21 standards for streamflows that will protect the ecology of the state's

22 rivers and streams; (7) methods to ensure that all water diversions can
23 be reviewed to assess environmental impacts; (8) the streamlining of
24 the water diversion permitting process; and (9) the water utility
25 coordinating committee process pursuant to section 25-33c of the
26 general statutes et seq. Such study shall be conducted on both a
27 regional and state-wide level.

28 (c) The council shall, not later than January 1, 2002, report its
29 preliminary findings and any proposed legislative changes to the joint
30 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
31 matters relating to public health, the environment and public utilities
32 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes. The council
33 shall, not later than January 1, 2003, report its final findings and any
34 proposed legislative changes to the joint standing committees of the
35 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
36 health, the environment and public utilities in accordance with section
37 11-4a of the general statutes. The council shall terminate on the date
38 that it submits its final report or January 1, 2003, whichever is earlier.

ET

JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R

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