



## Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2002

**File No. 113**

Senate Bill No. 536

*Senate, March 25, 2002*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING WATER UTILITY COORDINATING COMMITTEES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 25-33g of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2002*):

4 (b) The committee shall establish preliminary exclusive service area  
5 boundaries, based on the final assessment, for each public water  
6 system within the management area, and may change such  
7 boundaries. The committee shall solicit comments on such boundaries  
8 from municipalities, regional planning agencies, the Commissioners of  
9 Environmental Protection and Public Health, the Department of Public  
10 Utility Control, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
11 and other interested persons within the management area and respond  
12 to any comment received. If there is no agreement by the committee on  
13 such boundaries, or on a proposed change to such boundaries, the

14 committee shall consult with the Department of Public Utility Control.  
 15 If there is no agreement by the committee after such consultation, the  
 16 Commissioner of Public Health shall establish [exclusive service area]  
 17 or may change such boundaries taking into consideration any water  
 18 company rights established by statute, special act or administrative  
 19 decisions. In establishing such boundaries the commissioner shall  
 20 maintain existing service areas and consider the orderly and efficient  
 21 development of public water supplies. In changing such boundaries,  
 22 the commissioner shall consider existing service areas, the adequacy  
 23 and quality of supplies available to serve the area, the need for public  
 24 water supply in the area, opportunities for interconnections, physical  
 25 limitations to water service, the orderly and efficient development of  
 26 public water supplies and the ability of a water system to provide a  
 27 pure and adequate supply of water at the time of such change and in  
 28 the future.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

**PH**            *Joint Favorable*

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

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

Passage of this bill is not anticipated to result in any fiscal impact for either the Department of Public Health or the Department of Public Utility Control.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 536

**AN ACT CONCERNING WATER UTILITY COORDINATING COMMITTEES****SUMMARY:**

By law, a water utility coordinating committee (WUCC) establishes the exclusive service area of the water utilities in its area. If the WUCC cannot agree on the exclusive service area boundaries, it has to consult with the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC). If there is no agreement after the consultation, the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner must establish the boundaries.

This bill gives the WUCC the authority to change such exclusive water service areas. As under current law, the WUCC must consult with DPUC if there is no agreement on these changes. The bill gives DPH the authority to also make a final determination when there is no agreement on changes to exclusive service area boundaries. In changing the boundaries, the bill requires the DPH commissioner to consider (1) existing service areas, (2) the adequacy and qualities of supplies available to service the area, (3) the need for public water supply in the area, (4) opportunities for connections, (5) physical limitations to water service, (6) orderly and efficient development of public water supplies, and (7) the ability of a water system to provide a pure and adequate water supply at the time of the change and in the future.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2002

**BACKGROUND****WUCC**

State law provides for DPH to convene a WUCC for each of seven public water supply management areas in the state. Each WUCC must develop a preliminary assessment of water supply conditions and problems in its management area in consultation with DPH, DPUC, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Office of Policy and Management. The WUCC must establish preliminary exclusive

service area boundaries for each public water system within the management area.

The WUCC consists of (1) one representative from each public water system with a source of supply or a service area within the water supply management area and (2) one representative from each regional planning agency within that area, elected by majority vote of the chief elected officials of its member towns.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 25 Nay 0