



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 346

January Session, 2011

House Bill No. 5518

House of Representatives, April 4, 2011

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE-WIDE WATER USE PLAN.

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

1 Section 1. Section 25-33o of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (e) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

3 (NEW) (e) In addition to those duties established pursuant to
4 subsection (b) of this section and any other provision of the general
5 statutes, the Water Planning Council shall develop and supervise the
6 implementation of a structured, comprehensive approach for state-
7 wide water resource planning and allocation among users, including,
8 but not limited to, conservation and recreation groups, businesses and
9 agricultural interests. Such approach shall authorize the council to
10 identify stream flow goals based on proper planning and scientifically
11 quantifiable data, prioritize water apportionment among such users
12 and oversee a water diversion permitting process to effectively allocate
13 water resources.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	25-33o

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Expanding the duties of the Water Planning Council is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the bill does not establish a date by which such activities must be accomplished. The Council is comprised of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the departments of Public Utility Control, Environmental Protection, and Public Health. OPM provides administrative support to the council.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5518*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE-WIDE WATER USE PLAN.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the duties of the Water Planning Council to include developing and supervising the implementation of a statewide water resource planning and allocation approach among users, such as conservation and recreation groups, businesses, and agricultural interests. The approach must be structured, comprehensive, and allow the council to (1) identify stream flow goals based on proper planning and scientifically quantifiable data, (2) prioritize water apportionment among users, and (3) oversee water diversion permitting to effectively allocate water resources.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Water Planning Council***

The council consists of the Public Utility Control Authority chairperson (i.e., the Department of Public Utility Control head), commissioners of Environmental Protection and Public Health, and Office of Policy and Management secretary, or their designees. It is charged with addressing issues involving water companies, water resources, and state drinking water supply policies. The law requires the council to study a variety of issues including:

1. water companies' financial viability, market structure, rates, customer service, and land use;
2. protection and appropriate allocation of the state's water resources;

3. the adequacy and quality of the state's drinking water supply to meet current and future needs;
4. the status of current and projected withdrawals, river flows, and water users' future needs;
5. streamlining of the water diversion permit process; and
6. procedures for coordinating public water supply system planning.

It must report annually on its findings and recommendations for legislation to the Energy and Technology, Environment, and Public Health committees.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/18/2011)