



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

***Raised Bill No. 332***

LCO No. 1912



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:  
(PD)

***AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT IN HARTFORD COUNTY.***

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

1 Section 1. Number 358 of the special acts of 1931, as amended by  
2 special act 77-62, is amended to read as follows (*Effective October 1,*  
3 *2014*):

4 The Metropolitan District is authorized to supply water, at rates  
5 uniform with those charged within said district, to any town or city,  
6 any part of which is situated not more than twenty miles from the state  
7 capitol at Hartford, or to the inhabitants thereof, or to any state facility  
8 located within such area, upon such terms as may be agreed upon, but  
9 all other sources belonging to any such town or city shall be developed  
10 by such consumer or made available for development by said district.  
11 For purposes of this section, "rate" includes any water use charge,  
12 customer service charge or general surcharge. The cost of constructing  
13 the pipe connection between the district and such town or city shall be  
14 paid by such town or city. The cost of constructing the pipe connection  
15 between the district and any such state facility shall be paid by the

16 state of Connecticut. Nothing herein shall authorize The Metropolitan  
17 District to supply any water in competition with any water system in  
18 any town or city, except by agreement.

19 Sec. 2. Section 8 of number 511 of the special acts of 1929, as  
20 amended by section 3 of special act 83-31 and section 1 of special act  
21 99-12, is amended to read as follows (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

22 Said board, either directly or under committees consisting of one or  
23 more members of said board, shall organize bureaus for the convenient  
24 carrying into effect of the several functions herein committed to said  
25 board and may define the powers and duties of such bureaus and  
26 delegate to them such powers and duties by ordinance, by-law or  
27 otherwise as may, in the judgment of the board, be necessary for the  
28 convenient operation of the same. No member of the board shall  
29 receive any pay for his services as such member or as a member of a  
30 sub-committee of the board except that a reasonable sum may  
31 annually be appropriated for the actual expenses of said board. The  
32 board may, by ordinance, by-law or otherwise, fix the salaries and  
33 define the duties of all officers and employees or may delegate the  
34 fixing of salaries of employees and assignment of duties of employees  
35 to sub-committees or bureau managers. The chairman and vice-  
36 chairman of said district and of all sub-committees, bureaus, boards  
37 and commissions appointed by the district board shall, unless  
38 otherwise provided in the appointment or herein, hold office until the  
39 end of the fiscal year of their appointment and thereafter shall be  
40 appointed for terms of two years and until their successors shall be  
41 appointed and shall have qualified. The members of all sub-  
42 committees, bureaus, boards and commissions appointed by the  
43 district board shall, unless otherwise provided in the appointment or  
44 herein, hold such membership until the end of the fiscal year of their  
45 appointment and thereafter shall hold membership for terms of two  
46 years and until their successors shall be appointed and shall have  
47 qualified. The managers of the water bureau and of the bureau of  
48 public works and such others of the officers as by the district board

49 shall be especially so designated shall hold office during good  
50 behavior and shall be removed only for cause. All other officers and  
51 employees may be removed at any time by the district board at  
52 pleasure. All vacancies may be filled by the district board. Said district  
53 board shall have power to fill any vacancy occurring in its number for  
54 the unexpired portion of the term and, except as otherwise expressly  
55 provided, shall act in all cases by a majority of those present at any  
56 regular or special meeting, duly warned. A majority of the board shall  
57 constitute a quorum and the time, place and manner of calling  
58 meetings and the holding thereof, including the manner of dissolving  
59 tie votes, shall be prescribed by said board by by-law or otherwise. The  
60 district board shall be the final judge of the election returns and  
61 validity of elections and qualifications of its members and shall decide  
62 all tie votes in elections. Except as hereinafter provided, the district  
63 board shall have power to authorize the sale, transfer and conveyance  
64 of real and personal estate belonging to the district, and shall provide  
65 by by-law or otherwise for the form and manner of execution of the  
66 documents and instruments convenient therefor. The district board  
67 shall make provision for the proper auditing of the district accounts  
68 and may cause any officer to execute bonds to the district with surety  
69 to the acceptance of the district board for the faithful performance of  
70 duties. The district board shall post in a conspicuous location on the  
71 district's Internet web site: (1) The current budget of the district, and  
72 (2) the minutes of any meeting of the district board and of all sub-  
73 committees, bureaus, boards and commissions appointed by the  
74 district board. Such minutes shall be posted not later than seven days  
75 after the date of the session to which such minutes refer.

76 Sec. 3. Section 2 of special act 75-73, as amended by section 2 of  
77 special act 83-18, section 2 of special act 84-75 and section 17 of public  
78 act 93-380, is amended to read as follows (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

79 (a) The members of the board of commissioners appointed prior to  
80 and holding office on the effective date of special act 75-73, special act  
81 83-18, special act 84-75, [or this act] public act 93-380 or this act shall

82 continue to serve until the expiration of their terms for which they were  
83 appointed. Thereafter, members shall be appointed by the legislative  
84 body of each member municipality, to replace the members whose terms  
85 expire and until their successors are appointed and qualify, provided, in  
86 no event shall the total number of members appointed by the legislative  
87 body of any member municipality exceed: (1) Six in the city of Hartford,  
88 (2) three in the city of East Hartford, (3) one in the town of Rocky Hill, (4)  
89 one in the town of Wethersfield, (5) one in the town of Newington, (6)  
90 one in the town of Windsor, (7) one in the town of Bloomfield and (8)  
91 three in the town of West Hartford.

92 (b) Appointments to the district board by the legislative bodies of  
93 the member municipalities shall be made in accordance with the  
94 following schedule:

95 (1) The legislative body of the city of Hartford shall appoint (A)  
96 three commissioners for a term of two years to commence January 1,  
97 1977, and (B) three commissioners for a term of six years to commence  
98 January 1, 1981;

99 (2) The legislative body of the city of East Hartford shall appoint (A)  
100 two commissioners for a term of four years to commence January 1,  
101 1977, and (B) one commissioner for a term of six years to commence  
102 January 1, 1979;

103 (3) The legislative body of the town of Wethersfield shall appoint  
104 one commissioner for a term of six years to commence January 1, 1979;

105 (4) The legislative body of the town of Newington shall appoint one  
106 commissioner for a term of six years to commence January 1, 1981;

107 (5) The legislative body of the town of Windsor shall appoint one  
108 commissioner for a term of six years to commence January 1, 1981;

109 (6) The legislative body of the town of Bloomfield shall appoint one  
110 commissioner for a term of two years to commence January 1, 1987;

111 (7) The legislative body of the town of Rocky Hill shall appoint one  
112 commissioner for a term of six years to commence January 1, 1977;

113 (8) The legislative body of the town of West Hartford shall appoint  
114 (A) one commissioner for a term of one year to commence January 1,  
115 1984, (B) one commissioner for a term of three years to commence  
116 January 1, 1984, and (C) one commissioner for a term of five years to  
117 commence January 1, 1984.

118 (c) Upon the expiration of the initial terms of appointment under  
119 this section, members shall be appointed for terms of six years from  
120 January first in the year of their appointment and shall serve until their  
121 successors are appointed and qualify.

122 (d) On and after January 1, 1989, the eight members appointed by  
123 the governor to the district board shall be electors from The  
124 Metropolitan District, not more than three of whom shall be from any  
125 one municipality within said district nor shall such appointees  
126 represent more than fifty per cent of any municipality's representation  
127 on the district board. The appointments by the governor shall be for six  
128 years and shall be made in accordance with the following schedule:

129 (1) Three commissioners from the city of Hartford for a term to  
130 commence January 1, 1989;

131 (2) One commissioner from the city of East Hartford for a term to  
132 commence January 1, 1989;

133 (3) One commissioner from the town of Wethersfield for a term to  
134 commence January 1, 1989;

135 (4) One commissioner from the town of Newington for a term to  
136 commence January 1, 1991;

137 (5) One commissioner from the town of Windsor for a term to  
138 commence January 1, 1989;

139 (6) One commissioner from the town of West Hartford for a term to  
140 commence January 1, 1989.

141 (e) The four commissioners appointed by the designated members  
142 of the General Assembly shall be appointed as follows: (1) One  
143 commissioner by the president pro tempore of the Senate, for a term of  
144 five and one-half years commencing July 1, 1993; (2) one commissioner  
145 by the speaker of the House of Representatives, for a term of four and  
146 one-half years commencing July 1, 1993; (3) one commissioner by the  
147 minority leader of the Senate, for a term of three and one-half years,  
148 commencing July 1, 1993, and (4) one commissioner by the minority  
149 leader of the House of Representatives, for a term of two and one-half  
150 years, commencing July 1, 1993. After such initial appointment the  
151 terms of all such commissioners shall thereafter be six years. Such  
152 commissioners shall be electors from The Metropolitan District,  
153 provided no two commissioners shall be residents of the same  
154 municipality.

155 (f) On and after January 1, 2015, the legislative bodies of  
156 nonmember municipalities shall appoint four members to the board of  
157 commissioners, provided in no event shall the total number of  
158 members appointed by the legislative body of any nonmember  
159 municipality exceed: (1) One from the town of Glastonbury; (2) one  
160 from the town of South Windsor; (3) one from the town of East  
161 Granby; and (4) one from the town of Portland. Such commissioners  
162 shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members of the board of commissioners,  
163 except that such commissioners shall have a vote on any issue that  
164 directly affects any nonmember municipality. Commissioners  
165 appointed pursuant to this subsection shall be appointed for terms of  
166 six years from January first in the year of their appointment and shall  
167 serve until their successors are appointed and qualify.

168 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 1 of special act 75-73, as amended by  
169 section 1 of special act 83-18, section 1 of special act 84-75, section 16 of  
170 public act 93-380 and section 4 of special act 99-12, is amended to read

171 as follows (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

172 (b) On and after [July 1, 1993] January 1, 2015, said district board  
173 shall be composed of [twenty-nine] thirty-three electors of said district,  
174 seventeen to be appointed by the member municipalities, from among  
175 their respective electors, eight to be appointed by the Governor, one to  
176 be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one to be  
177 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one  
178 to be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, and one to  
179 be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, and four to be  
180 appointed by the nonmember municipalities, from among their  
181 respective electors, all such appointments being subject to the  
182 provisions of section 2 of special act 75-73, as amended by section 2 of  
183 special act 83-18, section 2 of special act 84-75 and section 17 of public  
184 act 93-380. The provisions of section 9-167a of the general statutes shall  
185 apply only to appointments made under this section by municipalities  
186 having three or more members and only with respect to members  
187 appointed by any such municipality. For the commissioners appointed  
188 by the member municipalities and the Governor, membership of the  
189 district board shall be apportioned among the member municipalities  
190 as follows: Nine commissioners from the city of Hartford, four  
191 commissioners from the city of East Hartford, one commissioner from  
192 the town of Rocky Hill, two commissioners from the town of  
193 Wethersfield, two commissioners from the town of Newington, one  
194 commissioner from the town of Bloomfield, two commissioners from  
195 the town of Windsor and four commissioners from the town of West  
196 Hartford.

197 Sec. 5. Section 4 of public act 97-227 is repealed and the following is  
198 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

199 The Metropolitan District Commission of Hartford county,  
200 established under number 511 of the special acts of 1929, may enter  
201 into an agreement with Riverfront Recapture, Incorporated, or its  
202 successors or assigns, sponsoring organization or developer, to

203 develop, operate and maintain real property for recreational and park  
204 purposes and to lay out, construct and maintain, own, operate, lease or  
205 license parks, esplanades, levees, docks, parking facilities and  
206 walkways connected to the Riverfront Recapture project and may  
207 establish rates for such purposes. The Metropolitan District  
208 Commission shall make a continued effort to maintain any real  
209 property used for recreational and park purposes pursuant to this  
210 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	Number 358 of the special acts of 1931
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	Number 511 of the special acts of 1929, Sec. 8
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	SA 75-73, Sec. 2
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	SA 75-73, Sec. 1(b)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	PA 97-227, Sec. 4

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require The Metropolitan District Commission to (1) charge all customers at uniform rates, including surcharges; (2) give nonmember municipalities representation on the district board; (3) post the district budget and minutes of the district board, subcommittees, bureaus, boards and commissions on the Internet web site of the district; and (4) maintain recreational property connected to the Riverfront Recapture project.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*