



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5540

LCO No. 2376



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE WATER PLAN.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-352 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 (a) Not later than July 1, 2017, the Water Planning Council,
4 established pursuant to section 25-33o, shall, within available
5 appropriations, prepare a state water plan for the management of the
6 water resources of the state. In developing such state water plan, the
7 Water Planning Council shall: (1) Design a unified planning program
8 and budget; (2) consider regional water and sewer facilities plans; (3)
9 identify the appropriate regions of the state for comprehensive water
10 planning; (4) identify the data needs and develop a consistent format
11 for submitting data to the council, applicable state agencies and
12 regional councils of governments for use in planning and permitting;
13 (5) consider the potential impact of climate change on the availability
14 and abundance of water resources and the importance of climate
15 resiliency; (6) seek involvement of interested parties; (7) solicit input
16 from the advisory group established pursuant to section 25-33o; (8)

17 consider individual water supply plans, water quality standards,
18 stream flow classifications, as described in regulations adopted
19 pursuant to section 26-141b, water utility coordinating committee
20 plans, the state plan of conservation and development, as described in
21 section 16a-30, and any other planning documents deemed necessary
22 by the council; (9) promote the adoption of municipal ordinances
23 based on the State of Connecticut Model Water Use Restriction
24 Ordinance for municipal water emergencies; and (10) examine
25 appropriate mechanisms for resolving conflicts related to the
26 implementation of the state water plan.

27 (b) The state water plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
28 section shall: (1) Identify the quantities and qualities of water that are
29 available for public water supply, health, economic, recreation and
30 environmental benefits on a regional basin scale considering both
31 surface water and groundwater; (2) identify present and projected
32 demands for water resources on a state-wide and regional basin scale;
33 (3) recommend the utilization of the state's water resources, including
34 surface and subsurface water, in a manner that balances public water
35 supply, economic development, recreation and ecological health; (4)
36 recommend steps to increase the climate resiliency of existing water
37 resources and infrastructure; (5) make recommendations for
38 technology and infrastructure upgrades, interconnections and such
39 major engineering works or special districts which may be necessary,
40 including the need, timing and general cost thereof; (6) recommend
41 land use and other measures, including an assessment of land
42 acquisition or land protection needs, where appropriate to ensure the
43 desired quality and abundance of water and to promote development
44 in concert with available water resources; (7) take into account desired
45 ecological, recreational, agricultural, industrial and commercial use of
46 water bodies; (8) inform residents of the state about the importance of
47 water-resource stewardship and conservation; (9) establish
48 conservation guidelines and incentives for consumer water
49 conservation with due consideration for energy efficiency; (10) develop

50 a water reuse policy with incentives for matching the quality of the
51 water to the use; (11) meet data collection and analysis needs to
52 provide for data driven water planning and permitting decisions; (12)
53 take into account the ecological, environmental, public health and
54 safety and economic impact that implementation of the state water
55 plan will have on the state; (13) include short and long-range objectives
56 and strategies to communicate and implement the plan; (14) seek to
57 incorporate regional and local plans and programs for water use and
58 management and plans for water and sewerage facilities in the state
59 water plan; (15) promote intraregional solutions and sharing of water
60 resources; (16) develop and recommend strategies to address climate
61 resiliency including the impact of extreme weather events; and (17)
62 identify modifications to laws and regulations that are necessary in
63 order to implement the recommendations of the state water plan.

64 (c) The Water Planning Council shall provide a time period of not
65 less than one hundred twenty days for public review and comment
66 prior to finalizing such plan. The Commissioners of Public Health and
67 Energy and Environmental Protection, the chairperson of the Public
68 Utilities Regulatory Authority and the Secretary of the Office of Policy
69 and Management shall post such draft plan and information
70 concerning such comment period in a conspicuous location on their
71 respective web sites. The Council on Environmental Quality shall post
72 such draft plan and information concerning such comment period in
73 the Environmental Monitor. The Water Planning Council shall
74 advertise and hold not less than one public hearing during such public
75 review and comment period. After such public comment period, the
76 council shall fully consider all written and oral comments concerning
77 the proposed state water plan. The council shall make available the
78 electronic text of the finalized state water plan on an Internet web site
79 where the finalized state water plan shall be posted and a report
80 summarizing: (1) All public comments received pursuant to this
81 subsection, and (2) the changes made to the finalized state water plan
82 in response to such comments and the reasons for such changes.

83 (d) Not later than January 1, 2018, the Water Planning Council, in
84 accordance with section 11-4a, shall submit the state water plan to the
85 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
86 of matters relating to the environment, public health, planning and
87 development and energy and technology for said committees'
88 approval [, revision] or disapproval [, in whole or in part] and any
89 recommendations for revisions to the plan. The council shall submit
90 such report to the Governor electronically.

91 (e) [Not later than forty-five days after the convening of the 2018
92 regular session of the General Assembly, said] Said joint standing
93 committees shall conduct a joint public hearing on the state water plan
94 [and] not later than forty-five days after receiving the plan pursuant to
95 subsection (d) of this section, provided the Water Planning Council
96 submits the plan at least sixty days prior to the end of the 2018 regular
97 session of the General Assembly. If the Water Planning Council does
98 not submit the plan at least sixty days prior to the end of the 2018
99 regular session, said joint standing committees shall conduct a joint
100 public hearing on the plan not later than forty-five days after the
101 convening of the 2019 regular session of the General Assembly. Not
102 later than forty-five days after the joint public hearing, said joint
103 standing committees shall either submit the plan with said joint
104 standing committees' joint recommendations for approval [,
105 modification or disapproval] to the General Assembly or return the
106 plan to the Water Planning Council indicating their disapproval and
107 any recommendations for revisions to the plan.

108 (f) If said joint standing committees return the state water plan with
109 recommendations for revisions, the Water Planning Council, in
110 consultation with its advisory group established pursuant to
111 subsection (c) of section 25-33o, shall consider the recommendations
112 and, not later than sixty days after its receipt, return a revised plan to
113 said joint standing committees for a joint public hearing on the revised
114 plan. The Water Planning Council shall make available the electronic
115 text of the revised plan on the Internet web site where the original

116 proposed plan was posted with a report summarizing: (1) The
117 recommendations for revisions made by said joint standing
118 committees pursuant to subsection (e) of this section; and (2) the
119 revisions made to the plan in response to such recommendations and
120 the reasons for such revisions.

121 (g) Not later than thirty days after receipt of the revised plan from
122 the Water Planning Council, said joint standing committees shall
123 conduct a joint public hearing on the revised plan, provided the Water
124 Planning Council submitted the revised plan at least forty-five days
125 prior to the end of the regular session of the General Assembly. If the
126 Water Planning Council does not submit the revised plan at least forty-
127 five days prior to the end of the regular session, said joint standing
128 committees shall hold a joint public hearing on the revised plan not
129 later than thirty days after the convening of the next regular session of
130 the General Assembly. Not later than thirty days after such hearing,
131 said joint standing committees shall recommend approval or
132 disapproval of the revised plan and forward it to the General
133 Assembly for action.

134 (h) The state water plan shall become effective when adopted by the
135 General Assembly as the state water plan for the state [, provided if the
136 General Assembly fails to act on the plan on or before July 1, 2018,
137 such state water plan shall be deemed approved.] The General
138 Assembly shall take action to approve or disapprove the state water
139 plan or a revised state water plan during a regular session of the
140 General Assembly not later than thirty calendar days or fifteen session
141 days after its receipt, provided the plan is submitted for action at least
142 thirty days prior to the end of the regular session. If said joint standing
143 committees do not submit the plan to the General Assembly at least
144 thirty days prior to the end of the regular legislative session, the
145 General Assembly shall take action to approve or disapprove the plan
146 not later than thirty days after the convening of the next regular
147 session.

148 [(f)] (i) In the event that the General Assembly disapproves or fails
149 to act on the state water plan, in whole or in part, the state water plan
150 shall be deemed to be rejected and shall be returned to the Water
151 Planning Council for revisions and resubmittal to the General
152 Assembly in accordance with the provisions of subsection (f) of this
153 section. [committees of cognizance, not later than ninety days after
154 such disapproval, for approval or modification by said committees. In
155 the event that said committees fail to take action on such resubmitted
156 plan not later than sixty days after such resubmission, the plan shall be
157 deemed to be approved.]

158 (j) If the General Assembly disapproves or fails to act on the revised
159 state water plan after its receipt from said joint standing committees,
160 the state water plan shall be deemed to be rejected and the Office of
161 Policy and Management, in consultation with the Water Planning
162 Council and the Water Planning Council Advisory Group, shall submit
163 any proposed legislation recommended in the plan to the General
164 Assembly for consideration. The Water Planning Council shall not be
165 precluded from submitting the state water plan or a revised state water
166 plan in a subsequent regular session of the General Assembly for
167 review in accordance with the provisions of this section.

168 [(g)] (k) The Water Planning Council shall oversee the
169 implementation and periodic updates of the state water plan. On or
170 before January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the Water Planning
171 Council shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the
172 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
173 of matters relating to the environment, public health, planning and
174 development and energy and technology on the status of the
175 development and implementation of the state water plan and any
176 updates to such plan. On and after January 1, 2016, the report required
177 by this subsection shall supplant the requirement for an annual report
178 as required pursuant to section 25-33o.

179 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 25-33o of the general statutes is

180 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
181 *January 1, 2017*):

182 (d) The council shall, not later than January 1, 2002, and annually
183 thereafter until January 1, 2015, report its preliminary findings and any
184 proposed legislative changes to the joint standing committees of the
185 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
186 health, the environment and public utilities in accordance with section
187 11-4a, except that not later than February 1, 2004, the council shall
188 report its recommendations in accordance with this subsection with
189 regard to (1) a water allocation plan based on water budgets for each
190 watershed, (2) funding for water budget planning, giving priority to
191 the most highly stressed watersheds, and (3) the feasibility of merging
192 the data collection and regulatory functions of the Department of
193 Energy and Environmental Protection's inland water resources
194 program and the Department of Public Health's water supplies section.
195 On and after January 1, 2016, the council shall report in accordance
196 with subsection (k) of section 22a-352, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	22a-352
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2017</i>	25-33o(d)

Statement of Purpose:

To amend legislative processes relating to the development of a state water plan.

[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.]