



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 420

LCO No. 2681

* SB00420PD 032116 *

Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY RESIDENTS WITH UNMET NEEDS BASED ON UNPAID WATER UTILITY BILLS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) "Water company" has the same
2 meaning as provided in section 25-32a of the general statutes.

3 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
4 establish a pilot program, to be implemented in municipalities with
5 populations greater than one hundred thousand for a two-year period
6 beginning January 1, 2017, for the purpose of identifying residential
7 water utility customers whose service has been terminated by a water
8 company at least once in the previous twenty-four months due to a late
9 payment or unpaid bill and whose water utility accounts reflect
10 unpaid balances of one hundred fifty dollars or more. Customers
11 identified pursuant to this subsection shall be deemed residents with
12 unmet needs.

13 (c) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in

14 consultation with municipalities, water companies and other interested
15 parties, shall consider the creation and implementation of a program
16 or programs to assess the unmet needs of such residents and provide
17 assistance that will enable such residents to meet their needs. Such
18 program or programs may (1) allow residents with unmet needs to
19 make small down payments on unpaid balances or extend payment
20 deadlines in order to avoid the termination of service, (2) provide
21 financial counseling to residents with unmet needs, or (3) provide
22 residents with unmet needs with information on public assistance
23 programs for which such residents may be eligible. Such program or
24 programs may utilize private funding sources.

25 (d) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in
26 consultation with municipalities and water companies, shall submit a
27 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the
28 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
29 of matters relating to local governments and public health, on their
30 findings pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and
31 recommendations pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PD *Joint Favorable*