



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 349

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5154

House of Representatives, April 10, 2018

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WATER USAGE AND CONSERVATION DURING DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Water Planning
2 Council, established pursuant to section 25-330 of the general statutes,
3 shall (1) review state and local authorizations concerning drought
4 events in this state, including, but not limited to, state and local
5 processes and authorities for the issuance of any notices regarding
6 changing drought intensity and any attendant voluntary or mandatory
7 water use restrictions during any such change in drought intensity,
8 and (2) adopt a comprehensive state drought plan based on such
9 review. Not later than February 1, 2019, the Water Planning Council, in
10 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, shall submit a
11 report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
12 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and public
13 health regarding the state drought plan and any recommendations for
14 legislative changes necessary to implement such plan. The report shall

15 include the council's suggestions for an appropriate interval for
 16 updating the state drought plan and the inclusion of the following in
 17 such plan: (A) A synthesis of such processes, authorities and water use
 18 restrictions, (B) recommendations for the standardization of initiating
 19 drought advisories, watches, warnings and emergencies in this state,
 20 including, but not limited to, recommendations concerning the
 21 appropriate level of reservoir depletion and public drinking water
 22 supply depletion for triggering any such advisory, watch, warning or
 23 emergency, (C) recommendations for the attendant voluntary and
 24 mandatory water use restrictions for any such drought advisory,
 25 watch, warning or emergency, including, but not limited to, the
 26 implementation of mandatory water use restrictions during any
 27 drought advisory or watch, (D) an effective public notification system
 28 for any such drought advisory, watch, warning or emergency that
 29 utilizes any available Internet web sites and social media of the
 30 affected water companies and municipalities where such water
 31 companies operate and that recommends the appropriate drought
 32 level for use of emergency notification systems as part of such public
 33 notification system, and (E) the viability and effectiveness of
 34 enforcement mechanisms designed to assure compliance with any
 35 mandatory water use restrictions. In undertaking such review,
 36 adopting the state drought plan and developing the report pursuant to
 37 this section, the Water Planning Council may consult with the advisory
 38 group established pursuant to subsection (c) of section 25-33o of the
 39 general statutes.

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

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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**

The bill expands the requirements of the Water Planning Council. This has no fiscal impact, as it is anticipated that the Council can fulfill the additional requirements with existing resources.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5154

***AN ACT CONCERNING WATER USAGE AND CONSERVATION
DURING DROUGHT CONDITIONS.***

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Water Planning Council to:

1. review state and local authorizations on drought events in Connecticut, including state and local processes and authorities for issuing notices about changing drought intensity and any attendant voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions during these changes in intensity and
2. adopt a comprehensive state drought plan based on this review.

In completing the review on drought event authorizations, the bill permits the council to consult with its advisory group.

The bill requires the council to report on the state drought plan and any recommended legislative changes to the Environment and Public Health committees by February 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

REPORT CONTENTS

Under the bill, the Water Planning Council's report to the Environment and Public Health committees must include the council's suggestions for (1) an appropriate interval for updating the state drought plan and (2) including in that plan:

1. a synthesis of state and local authorities, processes, and water use restrictions;

2. recommendations for standardizing the initiation of drought advisories, watches, warnings, and emergencies in the state, including recommendations on the appropriate depletion level of reservoirs and public drinking water supplies to trigger such actions;
3. recommendations for the attendant voluntary and mandatory water use restrictions during these situations, including the implementation of mandatory water use restrictions;
4. an effective public notification system for these situations that (a) uses available internet websites and social media of affected water companies and municipalities where these water companies operate and (b) recommends the appropriate drought level for using emergency notification systems; and
5. the viability and effectiveness of enforcement mechanisms designed to assure compliance with any mandatory water use restrictions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 2 (03/26/2018)