



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5154

February Session, 2018



**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 25-33o 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.*