



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 initiating drought advisories,
19 watches, warnings and emergencies in this state, including, but not
20 limited to, recommendations concerning the appropriate level of

21 reservoir depletion and public drinking water supply depletion for
22 triggering any such advisory, watch, warning or emergency, (C)
23 recommendations for the attendant voluntary and mandatory water
24 use restrictions for any such drought advisory, watch, warning or
25 emergency, including, but not limited to, the implementation of
26 mandatory water use restrictions during any drought advisory or
27 watch, (D) an effective public notification system for any such drought
28 advisory, watch, warning or emergency that utilizes any available
29 Internet web sites and social media of the affected water companies
30 and municipalities where such water companies operate and that
31 recommends the appropriate drought level for use of emergency
32 notification systems as part of such public notification system, and (E)
33 the viability and effectiveness of enforcement mechanisms designed to
34 assure compliance with any mandatory water use restrictions. In
35 undertaking such review, adopting the state drought plan and
36 developing the report pursuant to this section, the Water Planning
37 Council may consult with the advisory group established pursuant to
38 subsection (c) of section 25-33o of the general statutes.

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

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*