



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5355

February Session, 2024



AN ACT CONCERNING THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE UPPER FARMINGTON RIVER VALLEY.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with the
3 Metropolitan District Commission, shall make Colebrook River Lake
4 Dam release and holdback requests to the United States Army Corps of
5 Engineers, as needed, to achieve an optimum flow in the Farmington
6 River for: (1) Fish and wildlife, (2) recreation, (3) the river's health, (4)
7 flood risk reduction, (5) tourism, (6) hydropower, and (7) safety.

8 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
9 Metropolitan District Commission shall release from the Goodwin Dam
10 any amount of water released from the Colebrook Dam based on a
11 request of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental in
12 furtherance of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

13 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, within
14 available resources, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
15 Protection shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
16 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
17 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
18 environment, on recommended courses of action for the state to manage

19 the waters contained in Colebrook River Lake between the levels of
20 seven hundred one feet and six hundred forty-one feet in the event that
21 the federal government releases the Metropolitan District Commission
22 from responsibility for such waters. Such report shall address the state's
23 interest in achieving an optimum flow for: (1) Fish and wildlife, (2)
24 recreation, (3) the river's health, (4) flood risk reduction, (5) tourism, (6)
25 hydropower, and (7) safety. The commissioner shall consult relevant
26 stakeholders in the preparation of such report.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*