



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 732

LCO No. 4709



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE WATER PLAN TO BE AMENDED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-352 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Not later than July 1, 2017, the Water Planning Council,
4 established pursuant to section 25-33o, shall, within available
5 appropriations, prepare a state water plan for the management of the
6 water resources of the state. In developing such state water plan, the
7 Water Planning Council shall: (1) Design a unified planning program
8 and budget; (2) consider regional water and sewer facilities plans; (3)
9 identify the appropriate regions of the state for comprehensive water
10 planning; (4) identify the data needs and develop a consistent format for
11 submitting data to the council, applicable state agencies and regional
12 councils of governments for use in planning and permitting; (5) consider
13 and address the potential impact of climate change on the availability
14 and abundance of water resources and the importance of climate
15 resiliency; (6) seek involvement of interested parties; (7) solicit input
16 from the advisory group established pursuant to section 25-33o; (8)

17 consider individual water supply plans, water quality standards, stream
18 flow classifications, as described in regulations adopted pursuant to
19 section 26-141b, water utility coordinating committee plans, the state
20 plan of conservation and development, as described in part I of chapter
21 297, and any other planning documents deemed necessary by the
22 council; (9) promote the adoption of municipal ordinances based on the
23 State of Connecticut Model Water Use Restriction Ordinance for
24 municipal water emergencies; and (10) examine appropriate
25 mechanisms for resolving conflicts related to the implementation of the
26 state water plan.

27 (b) The state water plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
28 section shall: (1) Identify the quantities and qualities of water that are
29 available for public water supply, health, economic, recreation and
30 environmental benefits on a regional basin scale considering both
31 surface water and groundwater; (2) identify present and projected
32 demands for water resources on a state-wide and regional basin scale;
33 (3) recommend the utilization of the state's water resources, including
34 surface and subsurface water, in a manner that balances public water
35 supply, economic development, recreation and ecological health; (4)
36 recommend steps to increase the climate resiliency of existing water
37 resources and infrastructure to climate change; (5) make
38 recommendations for technology and infrastructure upgrades,
39 interconnections and such major engineering works or special districts
40 which may be necessary, including the need, timing and general cost
41 thereof; (6) recommend land use and other measures, including an
42 assessment of land acquisition or land protection needs, where
43 appropriate to ensure the desired quality and abundance of water and
44 to promote development in concert with available water resources; (7)
45 take into account desired ecological, recreational, agricultural,
46 industrial and commercial use of water bodies; (8) inform residents of
47 the state about the importance of water-resource stewardship and
48 conservation; (9) establish conservation guidelines and incentives for
49 consumer water conservation with due consideration for energy
50 efficiency; (10) develop a water reuse policy with incentives for

51 matching the quality of the water to the use; (11) meet data collection
52 and analysis needs to provide for data driven water planning and
53 permitting decisions; (12) take into account the ecological,
54 environmental, public health and safety and economic impact that
55 implementation of the state water plan will have on the state; (13)
56 include short and long-range objectives and strategies to communicate
57 and implement the plan; (14) seek to incorporate regional and local
58 plans and programs for water use and management and plans for water
59 and sewerage facilities in the state water plan; (15) promote
60 intraregional solutions and sharing of water resources; (16) develop and
61 recommend strategies to address climate resiliency including the impact
62 of extreme weather events; and (17) identify modifications to laws and
63 regulations that are necessary in order to implement the
64 recommendations of the state water plan.

65 (c) The Water Planning Council shall provide a time period of not less
66 than one hundred twenty days for public review and comment prior to
67 finalizing such plan. The Commissioners of Public Health and Energy
68 and Environmental Protection, the chairperson of the Public Utilities
69 Regulatory Authority and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
70 Management shall post such draft plan and information concerning
71 such comment period in a conspicuous location on their respective web
72 sites. The Council on Environmental Quality shall post such draft plan
73 and information concerning such comment period in the Environmental
74 Monitor. The Water Planning Council shall advertise and hold not less
75 than one public hearing during such public review and comment
76 period. After such public comment period, the council shall fully
77 consider all written and oral comments concerning the proposed state
78 water plan. The council shall make available the electronic text of the
79 finalized state water plan on an Internet web site where the finalized
80 state water plan shall be posted and a report summarizing: (1) All public
81 comments received pursuant to this subsection, and (2) the changes
82 made to the finalized state water plan in response to such comments and
83 the reasons for such changes.

84 (d) Not later than January 1, 2018, the Water Planning Council, in
85 accordance with section 11-4a, shall submit the state water plan to the
86 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
87 of matters relating to the environment, public health, planning and
88 development and energy and technology. The council shall submit such
89 report to the Governor electronically. Said joint standing committees
90 may conduct a joint public hearing on the state water plan and (1)
91 submit the plan with said joint standing committees' joint
92 recommendation for approval to the General Assembly, or (2) return the
93 plan to the Water Planning Council indicating their disapproval and any
94 recommendations for revisions to the plan by said council.

95 (e) The state water plan shall become effective when adopted by an
96 affirmative vote of the General Assembly as the state water plan for the
97 state.

98 (f) In the event that said joint standing committees do not recommend
99 approval of the plan or the General Assembly does not adopt the plan
100 by affirmative vote, the plan shall be returned to the Water Planning
101 Council for revisions and resubmittal to the General Assembly in
102 accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of this section.

103 (g) The Water Planning Council [may] shall submit the state water
104 plan or a revised state water plan to address climate change in a
105 subsequent session of the General Assembly for approval in accordance
106 with the provisions of this section.

107 (h) If the state water plan is not adopted by an affirmative vote of the
108 General Assembly on or before twenty-four months after the date of its
109 original submittal pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, then it shall
110 be forwarded to the Governor for adoption or rejection.

111 (i) The Water Planning Council shall oversee the implementation and
112 periodic updates of the state water plan. On or before January 1, 2016,
113 and annually thereafter, the Water Planning Council shall submit a
114 report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing

115 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
116 relating to the environment, public health, planning and development
117 and energy and technology on the status of the development and
118 implementation of the state water plan and any updates to such plan.
119 On and after January 1, 2016, the report required by this subsection shall
120 supplant the requirement for an annual report as required pursuant to
121 section 25-33o.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22a-352
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Statement of Purpose:

To require the state water plan to be amended to account for climate change.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. MARX, 20th Dist.; REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.
REP. ARZENO, 151st Dist.; SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.
REP. BUMGARDNER, 41st Dist.

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