



AN ACT CONCERNING THE NEW SPACE

1 Section 1 . Section 45 of the code is repealed by

2 (a) Not later than July 1, 2017, the Water Planning Council,
3 established pursuant to section 25-33o, shall, within available
4 appropriations, prepare a state water plan for the management of the
5 water resources of the state. In developing such state water plan, the
6 Water Planning Council shall: (1) Design a unified planning program
7 and budget; (2) consider regional water and sewer facilities plans; (3)
8 identify the appropriate regions of the state for comprehensive water
9 planning; (4) identify the data needs and develop a consistent format
10 for submitting data to the council, applicable state agencies and
11 regional councils of governments for use in planning and permitting;
12 (5) consider the potential impact of climate change on the availability
13 and abundance of water resources and the importance of climate
14 resiliency; (6) seek involvement of interested parties; (7) solicit input
15 from the advisory group established pursuant to section 25-33o; (8)
16 consider individual water supply plans, water quality standards,
17 stream flow classifications, as described in regulations adopted
18 pursuant to section 26-141b, water utility coordinating committee
19 plans, the state plan of conservation and development, as described in
20 section 16a-30, and any other planning documents deemed necessary

21 by the council; (9) promote the adoption of municipal ordinances
22 based on the State of Connecticut Model Water Use Restriction
23 Ordinance for municipal water emergencies; and (10) examine
24 appropriate mechanisms for resolving conflicts related to the
25 implementation of the state water plan.

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27 [\(3\) another](#)

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

49 water-resource stewardship and conservation; (9) establish
50 conservation guidelines and incentives for consumer water
51 conservation with due consideration for energy efficiency; (10) develop
52 a water reuse policy with incentives for matching the quality of the
53 water to the use; (11) meet data collection and analysis needs to
54 provide for data driven water planning and permitting decisions; (12)
55 take into account the ecological, environmental, public health and
56 safety and economic impact that implementation of the state water
57 plan will have on the state; (13) include short and long-range objectives
58 and strategies to communicate and implement the plan; (14) seek to
59 incorporate regional and local plans and programs for water use and
60 management and plans for water and sewerage facilities in the state
61 water plan; (15) promote intraregional solutions and sharing of water
62 resources; (16) develop and recommend strategies to address climate
63 resiliency including the impact of extreme weather events; and (17)
64 identify modifications to laws and regulations that are necessary in
65 order to implement the recommendations of the state water plan.

66 (c) The Water Planning Council shall provide a time period of not
67 less than one hundred twenty days for public review and comment
68 prior to finalizing such plan. The Commissioners of Public Health and
69 Energy and Environmental Protection, the chairperson of the Public
70 Utilities Regulatory Authority and the Secretary of the Office of Policy
71 and Management shall post such draft plan and information
72 concerning such comment period in a conspicuous location on their
73 respective web sites. The Council on Environmental Quality shall post
74 such draft plan and information concerning such comment period in
75 the Environmental Monitor. The Water Planning Council shall
76 advertise and hold not less than one public hearing during such public
77 review and comment period. After such public comment period, the
78 council shall fully consider all written and oral comments concerning
79 the proposed state water plan. The council shall make available the

80 electronic text of the finalized state water plan on an Internet web site
81 where the finalized state water plan shall be posted and a report
82 summarizing: (1) All public comments received pursuant to this
83 subsection, and (2) the changes made to the finalized state water plan
84 in response to such comments and the reasons for such changes.

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

93 (e) Said joint standing committees shall conduct a joint public
94 hearing on the state water plan not later than forty-five days after
95 receiving the plan pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, provided
96 the Water Planning Council submits the plan at least sixty days prior
97 to the end of the 2018 regular session of the General Assembly. If the
98 Water Planning Council does not submit the plan at least sixty days
99 prior to the end of the 2018 regular session, said joint standing
100 committees shall conduct a joint public hearing on the plan not later
101 than forty-five days after the convening of the 2019 regular session of
102 the General Assembly. Not later than forty-five days after the joint
103 public hearing, said joint standing committees shall either submit the
104 plan with said joint standing committees' joint recommendations for
105 approval to the General Assembly or return the plan to the Water
106 Planning Council indicating their disapproval and any
107 recommendations for revisions to the plan.

108 (f) In the event that the General Assembly disapproves or fails to act
109 on the state water plan, in whole or in part, the state water plan shall
110 be deemed to be rejected and shall be returned to the Water Planning
111 Council for revisions and resubmittal to the General Assembly in
112 accordance with the provisions of subsection (f) of this section.

113 (g) The Water Planning Council shall oversee the implementation
114 and periodic updates of the state water plan. On or before January 1,
115 2016, and annually thereafter, the Water Planning Council shall submit
116 a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing
117 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
118 relating to the environment, public health, planning and development
119 and energy and technology on the status of the development and
120 implementation of the state water plan and any updates to such plan.
121 On and after January 1, 2016, the report required by this subsection
122 shall supplant the requirement for an annual report as required
123 pursuant to section 25-33o.