



AN ACT CONCERNING THE NEW ERA

Be it enacted by the Senate

1 Section 1. Section 45 of the general statutes is repealed

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.

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

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

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

80 subsection, and (2) the changes made to the finalized state water plan
81 in response to such comments and the reasons for such changes.

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

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

105 (f) In the event that the General Assembly disapproves or fails to act
106 on the state water plan, in whole or in part, the state water plan shall
107 be deemed to be rejected and shall be returned to the Water Planning

108 Council for revisions and resubmittal to the General Assembly in
109 accordance with the provisions of subsection (f) of this section.

110 (g) The Water Planning Council shall oversee the implementation
111 and periodic updates of the state water plan. On or before January 1,
112 2016, and annually thereafter, the Water Planning Council shall submit
113 a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing
114 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
115 relating to the environment, public health, planning and development
116 and energy and technology on the status of the development and
117 implementation of the state water plan and any updates to such plan.
118 On and after January 1, 2016, the report required by this subsection
119 shall supplant the requirement for an annual report as required
120 pursuant to section 25-33o.