



AN ACT ABOUT THE NEW WAY

be it enacted by the senate

1 Section 1. Section 45 of code is repealed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 new paragraph](#)

27 [\(c\). A new one](#)

28 [\(d\). Another one.](#)

29 [\(e\). The last one](#)

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

46 desired quality and abundance of water and to promote development
47 in concert with available water resources; (7) take into account desired
48 ecological, recreational, agricultural, industrial and commercial use of
49 water bodies; (8) inform residents of the state about the importance of
50 water-resource stewardship and conservation; (9) establish
51 conservation guidelines and incentives for consumer water
52 conservation with due consideration for energy efficiency; (10) develop
53 a water reuse policy with incentives for matching the quality of the
54 water to the use; (11) meet data collection and analysis needs to
55 provide for data driven water planning and permitting decisions; (12)
56 take into account the ecological, environmental, public health and
57 safety and economic impact that implementation of the state water
58 plan will have on the state; (13) include short and long-range objectives
59 and strategies to communicate and implement the plan; (14) seek to
60 incorporate regional and local plans and programs for water use and
61 management and plans for water and sewerage facilities in the state
62 water plan; (15) promote intraregional solutions and sharing of water
63 resources; (16) develop and recommend strategies to address climate
64 resiliency including the impact of extreme weather events; and (17)
65 identify modifications to laws and regulations that are necessary in
66 order to implement the recommendations of the state water plan.

67 (c) The Water Planning Council shall provide a time period of not
68 less than one hundred twenty days for public review and comment
69 prior to finalizing such plan. The Commissioners of Public Health and
70 Energy and Environmental Protection, the chairperson of the Public
71 Utilities Regulatory Authority and the Secretary of the Office of Policy
72 and Management shall post such draft plan and information
73 concerning such comment period in a conspicuous location on their
74 respective web sites. The Council on Environmental Quality shall post
75 such draft plan and information concerning such comment period in
76 the Environmental Monitor. The Water Planning Council shall

77 advertise and hold not less than one public hearing during such public
78 review and comment period. After such public comment period, the
79 council shall fully consider all written and oral comments concerning
80 the proposed state water plan. The council shall make available the
81 electronic text of the finalized state water plan on an Internet web site
82 where the finalized state water plan shall be posted and a report
83 summarizing: (1) All public comments received pursuant to this
84 subsection, and (2) the changes made to the finalized state water plan
85 in response to such comments and the reasons for such changes.

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

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

107 Planning Council indicating their disapproval and any
108 recommendations for revisions to the plan.

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

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