

2019 -- S 0270

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LC001254
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
PROTECTION

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Coyne, and Conley

Date Introduced: February 13, 2019

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 46-15.3-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 46-15.3 entitled "Public
2 Drinking Water Supply System Protection" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **46-15.3-10. Water quality protection funds.**

4 (a)~~(1)~~ There are hereby created ~~three (3)~~ two (2) classes water quality protection funds:
5 one of which shall be administered by ~~and be in the custody of the treasurer of the water~~
6 ~~resources board~~ and maintained by each supplier that produces water from its own sources of
7 supply, or pays directly to the water resources board and, one of which shall be administered by
8 and be in the custody of the city of Providence acting through the Providence water supply board,
9 ~~and one of which shall be in the custody of the general treasurer. The first two (2) mentioned~~
10 ~~funds shall consist of such amounts as the state or the city of Providence may from time to time~~
11 ~~appropriate, all water quality protection charges other than the six and nine tenths percent (6.9%)~~
12 ~~and fifty seven percent (57.0%) portions referred to in § 46-15.3-9, proceeds from the sale of~~
13 ~~bonds and notes, as provided in subsection (b) below, and any money which may have been~~
14 ~~obtained as grants, bequests, donations, gifts, or fines which are intended to be used for purposes~~
15 ~~consistent with this chapter. This third mentioned fund shall be hereby established as a general~~
16 ~~revenue receipt account known as the "water resources operating fund".~~

17 ~~(2) The general revenue appropriations made available from the general revenue receipts~~
18 ~~credited to "Water Resources Operating Fund" shall be used for the administration and support of~~

1 ~~the water resources board.~~

2 (b) ~~The water resources board shall borrow money and issue its notes and bonds therefor,~~
3 ~~for the purposes set forth in this chapter, and pursuant to the authority and the procedures set forth~~
4 ~~in chapter 15.1 of this title, which shall be secured by pledging or assigning, in whole or in part,~~
5 ~~the revenues and other monies held or to be deposited in the water quality protection funds and~~
6 ~~any other revenues derived under this chapter.~~

7 (c) Any supplier with its own water quality protection fund may borrow money, and/or
8 issue its bonds or notes therefor, or may lease public facilities or public equipment for the
9 purposes set forth in this chapter. The supplier must secure any borrowings, bonds, notes, or
10 leases by pledging or assigning, in whole or in part, the revenues and other monies held by it in
11 its own water quality protection fund.

12 (d) All amounts in the water quality protection fund, water quality protection charges,
13 and any other revenues of the water resources board, excluding those deposited as general
14 revenues, received under the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed to be trust funds to be
15 held and applied solely as provided in this chapter and chapter 15.1 of this title.

16 (e) Any money which may accumulate in the water quality protection funds, which is in
17 excess of that pledged to repayment of outstanding bonds or notes or lease payments or loan
18 repayments at any given time, may be used directly for eligible expenditures from the fund and
19 shall be disbursed for these purposes in accordance with § 46-15.3-11.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would reduce the number of water quality fund classes from three to two, one of
2 which would be administered by and maintained by each supplier that produces water from its
3 own sources of supply, or pays directly to the water resources board and, one of which would be
4 administered by and be in the custody of the city of Providence acting through the Providence
5 water supply board.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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