

2021 -- S 0655

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- BRISTOL COUNTY WATER SUPPLY

Introduced By: Senators Coyne, Seveney, and Felag

Date Introduced: March 18, 2021

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 46-15.5-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 46-15.5 entitled "Bristol
2 County Water Supply" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **46-15.5-2. Legislative declaration.**

4 Recognizing the importance of protecting, maintaining and utilizing all sources of potable
5 water and recognizing that with the continued demands on the Scituate Reservoir, the existing
6 Bristol County water supplies will remain an important source of water for Bristol County in the
7 future (there being no other logical recipient of this water), it is the intent of the legislature that the
8 existing sources, transmission lines and treatment facilities be maintained and/or upgraded to
9 conform to federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards, 42 U.S.C. § 300f et seq., irrespective of
10 whether ownership and control is maintained by the Bristol County water authority or is turned
11 over to the state water resources board or its successor. Accordingly, this general assembly hereby
12 finds and declares that:

13 (1) The citizens of Bristol County lack an adequate and secure supply of potable water;

14 (2) Heretofore acting through the Bristol County water authority, the citizens of Bristol
15 County have presented a proposal for the construction to bring water from the Scituate Reservoir
16 to Bristol County;

17 (3) The state and its citizens would be better served and the environment enhanced by the
18 construction of an additional connection connecting Bristol County to the Scituate Reservoir; and

19 (4) The need for water in Bristol County is critical and requires immediate and prompt

1 action on the part of the state, its agencies, boards and commissions.

2 (5) Bristol County will require an alternate source of supply in order to construct the
3 improvements to its existing system of reservoirs, wells, and treatment plants,

4 (6) The alternatives authorized by this chapter will be less expensive than the East
5 Providence connection, so-called, and

6 (7) Reliance by citizens of East Providence and Bristol County on a single connection
7 would create a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of East Providence and Bristol
8 County, and, therefore, the construction of an emergency connection which shall permit water to
9 flow in either direction is a public necessity.

10 ~~(8) The state is mandated to upgrade the current Bristol County water system of reservoirs,~~
11 ~~wells, treatment plant, and transmission lines, with the first priority being given to the construction~~
12 ~~of a new raw water transmission line.~~

13 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 delete a portion of the enabling statute for the Bristol County Water
2 Authority.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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