

2021 -- H 5059 SUBSTITUTE A

LC000367/SUB A

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: Representative Jason Knight

Date Introduced: January 22, 2021

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

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 repeal Bristol county water supply's obligation to upgrade its transmission  
2 lines, treatment facilities and or upgrade them to conform to the Safe Drinking Water Act standards  
3 set forth by federal law and would repeal the state's obligation to upgrade the water system of  
4 reservoirs, wells, treatment plant and transmission lines for the Bristol county water supply.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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