

2016 -- S 2183

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LC003256
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS - BIG RIVER RESERVOIR
MORATORIUM

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, and Kettle

Date Introduced: January 27, 2016

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 37-20-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 37-20 entitled "Big River
2 Reservoir Moratorium" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **37-20-1. Big River Reservoir -- Development prohibited.** -- (a) All land acquired by
4 the state or any subdivision thereof for the development of the "Big River Reservoir" so-called,
5 including any land acquired by the Big River -- Wood River Reservoir Site Acquisition Act, P.L.
6 1964, ch. 133, shall not be sold nor shall the land be developed in any way. The state shall not
7 allow any future development or continued development on that property, and the property shall
8 be designated "open space" as defined in § 45-36-1(1) -- (7).

9 Provided, however, that the foregoing shall not be construed to prohibit the use of the
10 said property as a water reservoir, or for the development of wells and well sites together with
11 any infrastructure necessary for the treatment, transmission, storage and distribution of drinking
12 water if the water resources board determines that exploration or development of groundwater is
13 appropriate, then it shall not require legislative action to remove the property from the "open
14 space" for the purposes of groundwater development as defined in § 45-36-1(1) -- (8).

15 (b) Non-motorized bicycles are permitted upon and along land designated as the "Big
16 River Management Area". The water resources board, in consultation with the department of
17 environmental management shall within thirty (30) days of the passage of this act adopt rules and
18 regulations that include but are not limited to the appropriate designated areas and defined hours

1 for said uses in the management area.

2 (c) Notwithstanding the prohibitions contained in subsection §37-20-1(a), the Rhode
3 Island water resources board is authorized and directed to enter into a land lease agreement with
4 the town of Coventry. The lease agreement shall provide that the town of Coventry may
5 implement a compost facility and an emergency debris collection area in the Big River reservoir
6 property located on Phillips Road in Coventry until such time as the Big River reservoir water
7 supply is developed. Any compost facility implemented would be subject to all Rhode Island
8 department of environment and Rhode Island water resource board requirements for the
9 placement and management of a compost facility.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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1 This act would authorize a lease agreement between the water resources board and the
2 town of Coventry for a portion of the Big River reservoir property to be used as a compost facility
3 by the town.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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