

2013 -- H 6219

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- WATER SUPPLY

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, Marshall, Malik, and Hearn

Date Introduced: June 11, 2013

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-15-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-15 entitled "Water
2 Supply" is hereby amended to read as follows:
3 **39-15-12. Liability of landowner for water charges -- Lien. --** The owner of any house,
4 building, tenement, or estate shall be liable for the payment of the price or rent or rates fixed by
5 any town, city, or incorporated fire district or water district for the use of water furnished by such
6 town, city, fire district, or water district to the owner or occupant of the house, building,
7 tenement, or estate; and the price, rent, or rates shall be a lien upon the house, building, tenement,
8 and estate in the same way and manner as taxes assessed on real estate are liens, and, if not paid
9 as required by the town, city, fire district, or water district, shall be collected in the same manner
10 that taxes assessed on real estate are by law collected; provided, however, that the city of
11 Cranston or any agency thereof may charge interest on delinquent payments at a rate of not more
12 than twelve percent (12%) per annum; provided, however, that the city of Woonsocket or any
13 agency thereof may charge interest on delinquent payments at a rate of not more than eighteen
14 percent (18%) per annum. Provided further, however, that the Bristol County Water Authority or
15 successor entity thereto is authorized to issue bills directly to and in the name of property owners
16 who lease or rent their property, and a lien shall be created against the rented or leased property
17 regardless of whether said bill is for water furnished directly to the property owner or to a tenant,
18 lessee, or other person or entity who is lawfully in possession of the property with the property
19 owner's permission. Any lien arising from the furnishing of water by the said Bristol County

1 Water Authority shall be deemed a lien against the property, regardless of the party who actually
2 uses the water. Said Bristol County Water Authority is further authorized to foreclose on any lien
3 arising pursuant to this section against the owner of the property, regardless of the party who
4 actually uses the water.

5 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 authorize the Bristol County Water Authority to amend its billing
- 2 practices so as to issue bills for tenant's use of facilities directly to the property owner. The
- 3 Authority would also be authorized to foreclose on a lien arising for water charges.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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