

2014 -- S 2313

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
PROTECTION

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 12, 2014

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

(by request)

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (f) Funds credited to the "Water Resources Operating Fund" shall be used for water
20 supply projects undertaken by the water resources board or its successor on behalf of those
21 systems that are subject to and/or collect the water quality protection charges.

22 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 amend the process for crediting funds collected pursuant to the "Public
2 Drinking Water System Protection Act of 1997" in order that projects undertaken by the water
3 resource board are for systems subject to the collection of the water protection charges.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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