

2024 -- H 7653

LC005164

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- DAM PERMITS

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Nardone, and Roberts

Date Introduced: February 15, 2024

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 46-19.1 of the General Laws entitled "Dam Permits" is  
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~CHAPTER 46-19.1~~

4 ~~Dam Permits~~

5 CHAPTER 46-19.1

6 MAINTENANCE OF PONDS, DAMS AND DOCKS

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 46-19.1 of the General Laws entitled "Dam Permits" is hereby  
8 amended by adding thereto the following section:

9 **46-19.1-2. Pond maintenance in the town of Coventry.**

10 (a) In the event that a property owner of property on littoral land or land adjacent to a pond  
11 with a capacity greater than one thousand four hundred (1,400) normal storage acre feet of water  
12 in the town of Coventry seeks to alter, repair, modify or replace a dock on a pond, the property  
13 owner shall only need approval from the department of environmental management ("department").  
14 All docks existing within a pond with a capacity greater than one thousand four hundred (1,400)  
15 normal storage acre feet of water in the town of Coventry, as of the date of the enactment of this  
16 section are deemed to be acceptable as "existing docks" by the department. For purposes of this  
17 subsection "pond" has the same meaning as defined in § 2-1-20. Ponds owned by the State of Rhode  
18 Island and its governmental subdivisions in the town of Coventry, and their governmental  
19 subdivisions or by any quasi-public entity or utility shall not be subject to this section.

1           (b) A property owner that owns property subject to the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
2 section that extends beyond the water line into Johnson’s pond, by virtue of the legal description  
3 or other conveyancing language contained in the property owner's deed, then the property owner  
4 does not need to get authorization from the owner of Johnson’s pond before commencing  
5 waterfront improvements to include docks.

6           SECTION 3. 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 rename chapter 46-19.1 as "Maintenance of Ponds, Dams and Docks."  
2    Additionally, this act would permit property owners on ponds in Coventry with a capacity in excess  
3    of one thousand four hundred (1,400) normal storage acre feet of water, to alter, repair, modify, or  
4    replace a dock on the pond by seeking approval only from the department of environmental  
5    management. Also, this act would allow a property owner that owns property that extends beyond  
6    the water line on Johnson's pond in the town of Coventry, to commence water front work without  
7    authorization from the owner of Johnson's pond.

8           This act would take effect upon passage.

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