



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5249

LCO No. 1680



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:

(ET)

AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF A WATER COMPANY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 5 of special act 77-98, as
2 amended by section 4 of special act 78-24, section 4 of special act 24-7
3 and section 37 of public act 24-1 of the June special session, is amended
4 to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

5 (b) The members of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water
6 Authority board shall have the authority to act on behalf of the
7 Aquarion Water Authority, as described in section 35 of [section 41 of
8 this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-
9 46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,
10 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and public act 24-1 of
11 the June special session, until such time as the members of the Aquarion
12 Water Authority board [are] may be appointed.

13 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
14 [upon] if the Public Utilities Regulatory [Authority's] Authority, in the

15 full exercise of the Authority's powers concerning the review of a
16 proposed change in control of a water company, including, but not
17 limited to, such powers granted to the Authority pursuant to sections
18 16-47 and 16-22 of the general statutes, grants approval [of] to the South
19 Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority or the Aquarion Water
20 Authority to own and operate the Aquarion Water Company or one or
21 more of its subsidiaries, the authority board, provided such approval
22 has been granted, shall consist of eleven members who shall reside in
23 Connecticut and not be members of the representative policy board,
24 [six] five of whom shall be residents of the South Central Connecticut
25 Regional Water District appointed by the representative policy board,
26 and [five] six of whom shall be appointed by the representative policy
27 board of the Aquarion Regional Water District, as described in section
28 35 of [section 41 of this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act
29 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-
30 11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7
31 and public act 24-1 of the June special session, in accordance with section
32 38 of [section 41 of this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act
33 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-
34 11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7,
35 public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act. The [six] five
36 members appointed by the representative policy board of the authority
37 shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Aquarion Water
38 Authority until such time as the members of the Aquarion Water
39 Authority [are] may be appointed. All such authority members shall be
40 appointed without regard to political affiliation by a majority of the total
41 votes of those members of the representative policy board present at a
42 meeting at which at least two-thirds of the weighted vote, excluding
43 vacancies, is present, for terms of five years, not to exceed four
44 consecutive full terms, and until their successors are appointed and
45 have qualified. The sixth member first appointed shall be appointed for
46 a three-year term ending January 1, 2028, and the seventh member first
47 appointed shall be appointed for a five-year term ending January 1,
48 2030. Any vacancy occurring on the authority shall be filled in the same

49 manner for the unexpired portion of the term. Any member of the
50 authority may be removed from office by the representative policy
51 board for cause. Members of the authority shall receive such
52 compensation to be adjusted every three years by the Consumer Price
53 Index factor, as described in section 4 of special act 77-98, as amended
54 by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, public act 02-85, special act 03-11,
55 special act 13-20, special act 24-7 and [this act] public act 24-1 of the June
56 special session, if approved by the majority of weighted votes of the
57 membership of the representative policy board, excluding vacancies,
58 and shall be reimbursed for their necessary expenses incurred in
59 performance of their duties.

60 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 37 of special act 77-98, as amended by
61 special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85,
62 special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04,
63 special act 24-7 and public act 24-1 of the June special session, is
64 amended to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

65 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
66 no members shall be appointed to the board of the authority or the
67 Aquarion representative policy board unless and until the date [of] that
68 the Public Utilities Regulatory [Authority's] Authority, in the full
69 exercise of the Authority's powers concerning the review of a proposed
70 change in control of a water company, including, but not limited to, such
71 powers granted to the Authority pursuant to sections 16-47 and 16-22 of
72 the general statutes, may grant approval [of] to the South Central
73 Connecticut Regional Water Authority or the Aquarion Water
74 Authority to own and operate the Aquarion Water Company or one or
75 more of its subsidiaries. The South Central Connecticut Regional Water
76 Authority shall send written notice to each entity with appointment
77 authority pursuant to subsection (a) of this section upon such approval.

78 Sec. 3. Section 38 of special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24,
79 special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,
80 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and

81 public act 24-1 of the June special session, is amended to read as follows
82 (*Effective from passage*):

83 (a) A public corporation, to be known as the "Aquarion Water
84 Authority", constituting a public instrumentality and political
85 subdivision, is created for the purposes, charged with the duties and
86 granted the powers provided in section 34 to 65, inclusive, of [this act]
87 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,
88 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,
89 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the
90 June special session and this act. On and after December 31, 2025, if the
91 Authority grants approval as set forth in subsection (c) of section 5 of
92 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,
93 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,
94 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the
95 June special session and this act, and subsection (b) of section 37 of
96 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,
97 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,
98 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the
99 June special session and this act, the authority shall consist of eleven
100 members. If so approved, [Five] six of the members shall be residents of
101 the Aquarion Regional Water District who are appointed by the
102 Aquarion representative policy board and shall not be members of the
103 Aquarion representative policy board, and [six] five of the members
104 shall be members of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water
105 Authority who are appointed by the South Central Connecticut
106 Regional Water Authority representative policy board. The eleven
107 members of the board for the Aquarion Water Authority shall be and
108 remain the same eleven members of the board of the South Central
109 Connecticut Water Authority. All authority board members shall be
110 appointed without regard to political affiliation by a majority of the total
111 votes of those members of the Aquarion representative policy board
112 present at a meeting at which at least two-thirds of the weighted vote,
113 excluding vacancies, is present, for terms of five years, not to exceed four

114 consecutive full terms, and until their successors are appointed and
115 have qualified, except that of the members first appointed, two shall be
116 appointed for a term ending January 1, 2026, two for a term ending
117 January 1, 2027, two for a term ending January 1, 2028, two for a term
118 ending January 1, 2029, and three for a term ending January 1, 2030. Any
119 vacancy occurring on the authority shall be filled in the same manner
120 for the unexpired portion of the term. Any member of the authority may
121 be removed from office by the Aquarion representative policy board for
122 cause. Members of the authority shall receive such compensation, to be
123 adjusted every three years by the Consumer Price Index factor, as
124 described in section 37 of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by
125 special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85,
126 special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04,
127 special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act, if
128 approved by the majority of weighted votes of the membership of the
129 Aquarion representative policy board, excluding vacancies, and shall be
130 reimbursed for their necessary expenses incurred in performance of
131 their duties.

132 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
133 no members shall be appointed to the board of the authority or the
134 Aquarion representative policy board unless and until the date [of] that
135 the Public Utilities Regulatory [Authority's] Authority may grant
136 approval, [of] pursuant to subsection (c) of section 5 of special act 77-98,
137 as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12,
138 special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5,
139 special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special
140 session and this act, and subsection (b) of section 37 of special act 77-98,
141 as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12,
142 special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5,
143 special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special
144 session and this act, to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water
145 Authority or the Aquarion Water Authority to own and operate the
146 Aquarion Water Company or one or more of its subsidiaries.

147 Sec. 4. Section 44 of special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24,
148 special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,
149 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and
150 public act 24-1 of the June special session, is amended to read as follows
151 (*Effective from passage*):

152 Subject to the provisions of sections 34 to 65, inclusive, of [this act,]
153 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,
154 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,
155 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the
156 June special session and this act, including approval by the Public
157 Utilities Regulatory Authority pursuant to subsection (c) of section 5 of
158 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,
159 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,
160 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the
161 June special session and this act, and subsection (b) of section 37 of
162 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,
163 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,
164 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the
165 June special session and this act, the authority shall have the power: (a)
166 To sue and be sued; (b) to have a seal and alter the same at its pleasure;
167 (c) to acquire in the name of the authority by purchase, lease or
168 otherwise and to hold and dispose of personal property or any interest
169 therein, including shares of stock of a subsidiary corporation; (d) to
170 acquire in the name of the authority by purchase, lease or otherwise and
171 to hold and dispose of any real property or interest therein, including
172 water rights and rights of way and water discharge rights, which the
173 authority determines to be necessary or convenient, and to acquire any
174 existing wastewater system or water supply system or parts thereof
175 which are wholly or partially within the district as described under
176 section 36 of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24,
177 special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,
178 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and
179 public act 24-1 of the June special session. As a means of so acquiring,

180 the authority or a subsidiary corporation may purchase all of the stock
181 or all of any part of the assets and franchises of any existing privately
182 owned water or wastewater company, whereupon the authority or such
183 subsidiary corporation shall succeed to all rights, powers and franchises
184 thereof. Sections 16-43, 16-50c and 16-50d of the general statutes shall
185 not apply to any action by the authority or a subsidiary corporation or
186 any action by any privately owned water company or sewage company,
187 as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, taken to effectuate the
188 acquisition of the stock or all or any part of the assets and franchises of
189 such water company or sewage company by the authority.
190 Notwithstanding any provision of section 25-32 of the general statutes,
191 land may be transferred to the authority or a subsidiary corporation of
192 the authority as part of such an acquisition; (e) to construct and develop
193 any water supply system or any wastewater system; (f) to own, operate,
194 maintain, repair, improve, construct, reconstruct, replace, enlarge and
195 extend any of its properties; (g) notwithstanding any provision of the
196 general statutes, special acts or this charter, but subject to the provisions
197 of section 45 of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-
198 24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,
199 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7,
200 public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act, to sell water,
201 however acquired, to customers within the district or to any
202 municipality or water company; (h) notwithstanding any provision of
203 the general statutes, special acts or this charter, to purchase water
204 approved by the Commissioner of Public Health from any person,
205 private corporation or municipality when necessary or convenient for
206 the operation of any water supply system operated by the authority; (i)
207 to adopt and amend bylaws, rules and regulations for the management
208 and regulation of its affairs and for the use and protection of the water
209 and properties of the authority or a subsidiary corporation and, subject
210 to the provisions of any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds,
211 rules for the sale of water, the collection and processing of wastewater
212 and the collection of rents and charges for both water supply and
213 wastewater functions. A copy of such bylaws, rules and regulations and

214 all amendments thereto, certified by the secretary of the authority, shall
215 be filed in the office of the Secretary of the State and with the clerk of
216 each town and city within the district. Any superior court located within
217 the district shall have jurisdiction over any violation of such bylaws,
218 rules or regulations and the authority may prosecute actions before the
219 superior court to enforce such bylaws, rules and regulations; (j) to make
220 contracts and to execute all necessary or convenient instruments,
221 including evidences of indebtedness, negotiable or non-negotiable; (k)
222 to borrow money, to issue negotiable bonds or notes, to fund and refund
223 the same and to provide for the rights of the holders of the authority's
224 obligations; (l) to open the grounds in any public street or way or public
225 grounds for the purpose of laying, installing, maintaining or replacing
226 pipes and conduits, provided upon the completion of such work the
227 grounds shall be restored to the condition they were in previously; (m)
228 to enter into cooperative agreements with other water authorities,
229 municipalities, water districts, water companies or water pollution
230 control authorities within or without the district for interconnection of
231 facilities, for exchange or interchange of services and commodities or for
232 any other lawful purpose necessary or desirable to effect the purposes
233 of sections 34 to 65, inclusive, of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended
234 by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85,
235 special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04,
236 special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act,
237 such agreements to be binding for a period specified therein; (n) to
238 acquire, hold, develop and maintain land and other real estate and
239 waters for conservation and for compatible active and passive
240 recreational purposes and to levy charges for such uses, provided the
241 state department of health finds that such uses will not harm the quality
242 of water provided by the authority; (o) to apply for and accept grants,
243 loans or contributions from the United States, the state of Connecticut
244 or any agency, instrumentality or subdivision of either of them or from
245 any person, and to expend the proceeds for any of its purposes; (p) to
246 create programs and policies for the purpose of conserving water; (q) to
247 do any and all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers

248 expressly given in sections 34 to 36, inclusive, [of this act] and sections
249 38 to 40, inclusive, of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special
250 act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act
251 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-
252 7, public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act, including the
253 powers granted by the general statutes to stock corporations, except the
254 power to issue stock, and the powers granted by the general statutes to
255 water pollution control authorities; and (r) to borrow money, to issue
256 negotiable bonds or notes, to fund and refund the same and to provide
257 for the rights of the holders of the authority's obligations for the specific
258 purpose of acquiring the Aquarion Water Company or one or more of
259 its subsidiaries.

260 Sec. 5. Section 62 of special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24,
261 special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,
262 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and
263 public act 24-1 of the June special session, is amended to read as follows
264 (*Effective from passage*):

265 Following approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, as
266 set forth in subsection (c) of section 5 of special act 77-98, as amended
267 by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85,
268 special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04,
269 special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act,
270 and subsection (b) of section 37 of special act 77-98, as amended by
271 special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85,
272 special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04,
273 special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act, if
274 granted, insofar [Insofar] as the provisions of sections 34 to 65, inclusive,
275 of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act
276 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-
277 20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of
278 the June special session and this act, are inconsistent with the provisions
279 of any other general statute, special act or any municipal ordinance, the
280 provisions of said sections 34 to 65, inclusive, [of this act] shall be

281 controlling; provided nothing contained in said sections 34 to 65,
282 inclusive, [of this act] shall exempt the authority from compliance with
283 zoning regulations lawfully established by any municipality, except that
284 the plants, structures and other facilities of the water supply system or
285 the wastewater system owned or operated by the authority shall be
286 permitted uses in all zoning districts in every city, town or borough
287 within the district; and provided further that the authority may not
288 construct purification or filtration plants or wastewater treatment plants
289 in any zoning district in which such use is not permitted under local
290 zoning regulations without first obtaining approval of the proposed
291 location of such facility from the Aquarion representative policy board
292 following a public hearing.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 5(b) and (c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 37(b)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 38
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 44
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 62

Statement of Purpose:

To amend the charter of the South Central Connection Regional Water Authority concerning the potential acquisition of a water company.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]