



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 2297



Offered by:

SEN. HARDING, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. SAMPSON, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. HWANG, 28<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. FAZIO, 36<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 298

File No.

Cal. No.

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE REALLOCATION OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, GENERAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES AND WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 5 of special act 77-98, as  
4 amended by section 4 of special act 78-24, section 4 of special act 24-7  
5 and section 37 of public act 24-1 of the June special session, is amended  
6 to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

7 (b) The members of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water  
8 Authority board shall have the authority to act on behalf of the  
9 Aquarion Water Authority, as described in section 35 of [section 41 of  
10 this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-

11 46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,  
12 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and public act 24-1 of  
13 the June special session, until such time as the members of the Aquarion  
14 Water Authority board [are] may be appointed.

15 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
16 [upon] if the Public Utilities Regulatory [Authority's] Authority, in the  
17 full exercise of the Authority's powers concerning the review of a  
18 proposed change in control of a water company, including, but not  
19 limited to, such powers granted to the Authority pursuant to sections  
20 16-47 and 16-22 of the general statutes, grants approval [of] to the South  
21 Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority or the Aquarion Water  
22 Authority to own and operate the Aquarion Water Company or one or  
23 more of its subsidiaries, the authority board, provided such approval  
24 has been granted, shall consist of eleven members who shall reside in  
25 Connecticut and not be members of the representative policy board,  
26 [six] five of whom shall be residents of the South Central Connecticut  
27 Regional Water District appointed by the representative policy board,  
28 and [five] six of whom shall be appointed by the representative policy  
29 board of the Aquarion Regional Water District, as described in section  
30 35 of [section 41 of this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act  
31 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-  
32 11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7  
33 and public act 24-1 of the June special session, in accordance with section  
34 38 of [section 41 of this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act  
35 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-  
36 11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7,  
37 public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act. The [six] five  
38 members appointed by the representative policy board of the authority  
39 shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Aquarion Water  
40 Authority until such time as the members of the Aquarion Water  
41 Authority [are] may be appointed. All such authority members shall be  
42 appointed without regard to political affiliation by a majority of the total  
43 votes of those members of the representative policy board present at a  
44 meeting at which at least two-thirds of the weighted vote, excluding

45 vacancies, is present, for terms of five years, not to exceed four  
46 consecutive full terms, and until their successors are appointed and  
47 have qualified. The sixth member first appointed shall be appointed for  
48 a three-year term ending January 1, 2028, and the seventh member first  
49 appointed shall be appointed for a five-year term ending January 1,  
50 2030. Any vacancy occurring on the authority shall be filled in the same  
51 manner for the unexpired portion of the term. Any member of the  
52 authority may be removed from office by the representative policy  
53 board for cause. Members of the authority shall receive such  
54 compensation to be adjusted every three years by the Consumer Price  
55 Index factor, as described in section 4 of special act 77-98, as amended  
56 by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, public act 02-85, special act 03-11,  
57 special act 13-20, special act 24-7 and [this act] public act 24-1 of the June  
58 special session, if approved by the majority of weighted votes of the  
59 membership of the representative policy board, excluding vacancies,  
60 and shall be reimbursed for their necessary expenses incurred in  
61 performance of their duties.

62 Sec. 502. Subsection (b) of section 37 of special act 77-98, as amended  
63 by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85,  
64 special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04,  
65 special act 24-7 and public act 24-1 of the June special session, is  
66 amended to read as follows (*Effective from passage*):

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

78 Authority shall send written notice to each entity with appointment  
79 authority pursuant to subsection (a) of this section upon such approval.

80 Sec. 503. Section 44 of special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-  
81 24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,  
82 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and  
83 public act 24-1 of the June special session, is amended to read as follows  
84 (*Effective from passage*):

85 Subject to the provisions of sections 34 to 65, inclusive, of [this act],  
86 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,  
87 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,  
88 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the  
89 June special session and this act, including approval by the Public  
90 Utilities Regulatory Authority pursuant to subsection (c) of section 5 of  
91 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,  
92 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,  
93 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the  
94 June special session and this act, and subsection (b) of section 37 of  
95 special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46,  
96 special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20,  
97 special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the  
98 June special session and this act, the authority shall have the power: (a)  
99 To sue and be sued; (b) to have a seal and alter the same at its pleasure;  
100 (c) to acquire in the name of the authority by purchase, lease or  
101 otherwise and to hold and dispose of personal property or any interest  
102 therein, including shares of stock of a subsidiary corporation; (d) to  
103 acquire in the name of the authority by purchase, lease or otherwise and  
104 to hold and dispose of any real property or interest therein, including  
105 water rights and rights of way and water discharge rights, which the  
106 authority determines to be necessary or convenient, and to acquire any  
107 existing wastewater system or water supply system or parts thereof  
108 which are wholly or partially within the district as described under  
109 section 36 of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-24,  
110 special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,

111 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and  
112 public act 24-1 of the June special session. As a means of so acquiring,  
113 the authority or a subsidiary corporation may purchase all of the stock  
114 or all of any part of the assets and franchises of any existing privately  
115 owned water or wastewater company, whereupon the authority or such  
116 subsidiary corporation shall succeed to all rights, powers and franchises  
117 thereof. Sections 16-43, 16-50c and 16-50d of the general statutes shall  
118 not apply to any action by the authority or a subsidiary corporation or  
119 any action by any privately owned water company or sewage company,  
120 as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, taken to effectuate the  
121 acquisition of the stock or all or any part of the assets and franchises of  
122 such water company or sewage company by the authority.  
123 Notwithstanding any provision of section 25-32 of the general statutes,  
124 land may be transferred to the authority or a subsidiary corporation of  
125 the authority as part of such an acquisition; (e) to construct and develop  
126 any water supply system or any wastewater system; (f) to own, operate,  
127 maintain, repair, improve, construct, reconstruct, replace, enlarge and  
128 extend any of its properties; (g) notwithstanding any provision of the  
129 general statutes, special acts or this charter, but subject to the provisions  
130 of section 45 of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-  
131 24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,  
132 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7,  
133 public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act, to sell water,  
134 however acquired, to customers within the district or to any  
135 municipality or water company; (h) notwithstanding any provision of  
136 the general statutes, special acts or this charter, to purchase water  
137 approved by the Commissioner of Public Health from any person,  
138 private corporation or municipality when necessary or convenient for  
139 the operation of any water supply system operated by the authority; (i)  
140 to adopt and amend bylaws, rules and regulations for the management  
141 and regulation of its affairs and for the use and protection of the water  
142 and properties of the authority or a subsidiary corporation and, subject  
143 to the provisions of any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds,  
144 rules for the sale of water, the collection and processing of wastewater  
145 and the collection of rents and charges for both water supply and

146 wastewater functions. A copy of such bylaws, rules and regulations and  
147 all amendments thereto, certified by the secretary of the authority, shall  
148 be filed in the office of the Secretary of the State and with the clerk of  
149 each town and city within the district. Any superior court located within  
150 the district shall have jurisdiction over any violation of such bylaws,  
151 rules or regulations and the authority may prosecute actions before the  
152 superior court to enforce such bylaws, rules and regulations; (j) to make  
153 contracts and to execute all necessary or convenient instruments,  
154 including evidences of indebtedness, negotiable or non-negotiable; (k)  
155 to borrow money, to issue negotiable bonds or notes, to fund and refund  
156 the same and to provide for the rights of the holders of the authority's  
157 obligations; (l) to open the grounds in any public street or way or public  
158 grounds for the purpose of laying, installing, maintaining or replacing  
159 pipes and conduits, provided upon the completion of such work the  
160 grounds shall be restored to the condition they were in previously; (m)  
161 to enter into cooperative agreements with other water authorities,  
162 municipalities, water districts, water companies or water pollution  
163 control authorities within or without the district for interconnection of  
164 facilities, for exchange or interchange of services and commodities or for  
165 any other lawful purpose necessary or desirable to effect the purposes  
166 of sections 34 to 65, inclusive, of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended  
167 by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85,  
168 special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04,  
169 special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act,  
170 such agreements to be binding for a period specified therein; (n) to  
171 acquire, hold, develop and maintain land and other real estate and  
172 waters for conservation and for compatible active and passive  
173 recreational purposes and to levy charges for such uses, provided the  
174 state department of health finds that such uses will not harm the quality  
175 of water provided by the authority; (o) to apply for and accept grants,  
176 loans or contributions from the United States, the state of Connecticut  
177 or any agency, instrumentality or subdivision of either of them or from  
178 any person, and to expend the proceeds for any of its purposes; (p) to  
179 create programs and policies for the purpose of conserving water; (q) to  
180 do any and all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers

181 expressly given in sections 34 to 36, inclusive, [of this act] and sections  
182 38 to 40, inclusive, of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special  
183 act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act  
184 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-  
185 7, public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act, including the  
186 powers granted by the general statutes to stock corporations, except the  
187 power to issue stock, and the powers granted by the general statutes to  
188 water pollution control authorities; and (r) to borrow money, to issue  
189 negotiable bonds or notes, to fund and refund the same and to provide  
190 for the rights of the holders of the authority's obligations for the specific  
191 purpose of acquiring the Aquarion Water Company or one or more of  
192 its subsidiaries.

193 Sec. 504. Section 62 of special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-  
194 24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,  
195 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7 and  
196 public act 24-1 of the June special session, is amended to read as follows  
197 (*Effective from passage*):

198 [Insofar] Following approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory  
199 Authority, as set forth in subsection (c) of section 5 of special act 77-98,  
200 as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12,  
201 special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5,  
202 special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special  
203 session and this act, and subsection (b) of section 37 of special act 77-98,  
204 as amended by special act 78-24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12,  
205 special act 02-85, special act 03-11, special act 13-20, special act 17-5,  
206 special act 18-04, special act 24-7, public act 24-1 of the June special  
207 session and this act, if granted, insofar as the provisions of sections 34 to  
208 65, inclusive, of [this act] special act 77-98, as amended by special act 78-  
209 24, special act 84-46, special act 99-12, special act 02-85, special act 03-11,  
210 special act 13-20, special act 17-5, special act 18-04, special act 24-7,  
211 public act 24-1 of the June special session and this act, are inconsistent  
212 with the provisions of any other general statute, special act or any  
213 municipal ordinance, the provisions of said sections 34 to 65, inclusive,

214 [of this act] shall be controlling; provided nothing contained in said  
 215 sections 34 to 65, inclusive, [of this act] shall exempt the authority from  
 216 compliance with zoning regulations lawfully established by any  
 217 municipality, except that the plants, structures and other facilities of the  
 218 water supply system or the wastewater system owned or operated by  
 219 the authority shall be permitted uses in all zoning districts in every city,  
 220 town or borough within the district; and provided further that the  
 221 authority may not construct purification or filtration plants or  
 222 wastewater treatment plants in any zoning district in which such use is  
 223 not permitted under local zoning regulations without first obtaining  
 224 approval of the proposed location of such facility from the Aquarion  
 225 representative policy board following a public hearing."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 5(b) and (c)
Sec. 502	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 37(b)
Sec. 503	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 44
Sec. 504	<i>from passage</i>	SA 77-98, Sec. 62