



## Legislation Summary:

### An Act to improve water quality and pollution control programs

Initial bill number: [H2139](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsor: Rep. David. M. Rogers

This bill would mandate that the Water Resources Commission prepare a Massachusetts water quality and pollution control program report for the Commonwealth, including a gap analysis, goals and recommendations for program improvements, and comprehensive long-term funding.

During last year's legislative session Governor Baker proposed that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency delegate to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection the management of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Because MassDEP lacks resources and staff for its current water quality programs, the environmental and conservation community unanimously said: "Fix it first" (before taking on a costly new responsibility currently provided by the federal government). This report would detail what needs to be fixed and how to do it, regardless of whether this program is delegated to the Commonwealth or remains with the EPA.

**League position:** Where We Stand, p. 31: The league supports means to ensure adequate and equitable distribution of the Commonwealth's water resources under all situations and supports mandated water conservation measures through a variety of means.