



Legislation Summary:

An Act providing for the establishment of sustainable water resource funds

Initial bill number: [S1126/H2116](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. Jamie Eldridge, Rep. Carolyn Dykema

This bill would authorize municipalities to assess a “water-banking” fee on large-scale water users to help communities mitigate the impacts of major new and increased developments on water resources. The fees collected can be used solely to mitigate these impacts, and must go into a water utility expressly for this purpose. This money will be protected from being “borrowed” for other municipal uses. These fees will help towns comply with environmental regulatory requirements. Communities can choose to establish a water bank or not, at their discretion.

Cities and towns lack the resources to cope with additional development and end up with problems associated with water withdrawals, wastewater discharges and storm water pollution. This provides a new funding mechanism to municipalities that charges the source of the problems for the mitigation of them.

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.