



Legislation Summary:

An Act relative to streamflow standards

Initial bill number: [S420/H2711](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. James Eldridge, Rep. Frank Smizik

The bill requires the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to adopt new regulations to maintain streamflow and water levels to protect aquatic life.

The 2014 Water Management Act as implemented in regulatory changes (Sustainable Water Management Initiative SWMI) were extremely weak and have failed to ameliorate stream flow problems. This act requires regulations to mitigate upstream in the same water basin as withdrawal and to use all feasible means to maintain stream flows. These changes will make the environmental review process more predictable for all parties.

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.