



## Legislation Summary:

**An Act** relative to drought management

Initial bill number: [S425/H2115](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. James Eldridge, Rep. Carolyn Dykema

Massachusetts lacks authority to require water conservation during a drought. Despite the severity of the past summer's drought, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs could only recommend outdoor watering restrictions, but could not require them. This bill would give the Secretary the authority to require water conservation during a drought.

- Non-essential outdoor water use restrictions would gradually escalate as drought levels worsen.
- These restrictions would apply to all water users within a drought region. Restrictions could also apply to private wells.
- Agricultural water users would be exempted.

**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.