



## **Legislation Summary: Drought Management**

### **An Act relative to maintaining adequate water supplies through effective drought management**

Initial bill number: H.861/S.475

Sponsors: Sen. Eldridge and Rep. Meschino

### **What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.**

This bill gives the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) the authority to require water conservation measures during a drought for all water users in the watershed except agricultural waters. Non-essential outdoor water used restrictions would gradually escalate as drought levels worsen.

The LWVMA supports this bills because it is a key part of the effort 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, including sanctions against those who violate distribution mandates. LWVMA, Where We Stand, p. 33