



Legislation Summary:

An Act improving municipal water S.476

Sponsor: Sen. James Eldridge

An Act relative to funding water infrastructure and addressing economic target areas infrastructure H803/S453

Sponsors: Rep. Sean Garballey/Sen. Brendan Crighton

The LWVMA supports these bills.

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. Bills S453 and H803 further provide for some of the trust fund monies to be used by the department of environmental protection for economic target area water infrastructure initiatives.

The LWVMA 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, of which this is one more. LWVMA, Where We Stand, p. 33